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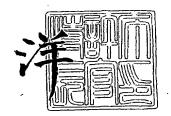
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【請求項1】

電子透かし埋め込み対象の電子画像を複数の画像領域に空間的に分割する分割処理ステ ップと、

画素値の変化が視認されにくい特性を有する画素を適応画素として上記画像領域ごとに 抽出する適応抽出ステップと、

電子透かしの埋め込みビット値に応じて上記画像領域間及び時間方向で上記適応画素の 画素値を変化させると共に、上記画像領域間の境界及び/又は時間方向で画素値変化の遷 移が緩慢になるように段階的に変化させることにより電子透かし埋め込み画像を生成する 埋め込みステップと

を備えた電子透かし埋め込み方法。

【請求項2】

埋め込みステップで、画像領域間及び/又は時間方向で互いに異なる位相極性で画素値 を変化させることにより埋め込みビットを表現することを特徴とする請求項1記載の電子 透かし埋め込み方法。

【請求項3】

適応抽出ステップで、電子透かし埋め込みに係る輝度変化を加えても当該変化が視認さ れにくい輝度レベルの画素を適応画素として抽出することを特徴とする請求項1記載の電 子透かし埋め込み方法。

【請求項4】

適応抽出ステップで、電子透かし埋め込み対象の電子画像の時間方向での画素値差分に 基づいて時間方向で画素値変化が大きい画素を適応画素として抽出することを特徴とする 請求項1記載の電子透かし埋め込み方法。

【請求項5】

適応抽出ステップで、電子透かし埋め込み対象の電子画像中のエッジ部分から適応画素 を抽出することを特徴とする請求項1記載の電子透かし埋め込み方法。

【請求項6】

埋め込みステップで、電子透かし埋め込み対象の電子画像中のシーンチェンジに同期し て埋め込み処理を実行することを特徴とする請求項1記載の電子透かし埋め込み方法。

電子透かし埋め込み対象の電子画像を空間的に複数の画像領域に分割し、電子透かしの 埋め込みビット値に応じて上記画像領域間及び時間方向で画素値を変化させることにより 電子透かしが埋め込まれた検出対象画像から上記埋め込みビットを検出する電子透かし検 出方法において、

上記検出対象画像の画像領域ごとに電子透かし埋め込みによる時間方向での画素値変化 に対応した画素値差分をGap値として検出するGap検出ステップと、

上記検出対象画像に埋置込まれるべき電子透かしによる上記画像領域間及び時間方向で の画素値変化パターンと上記検出対象画像の時間方向での画素値変化パターンとの相関値 を検出する相関検出ステップと、

上記Gap値及び上記相関値についての上記画像分割領域ごとの検出結果から上記埋め 込みビットをそれぞれ判定し、これら判定結果を相補的に判断して最終的な埋め込みビッ トを決定する埋め込みビット判定ステップと

を備えたことを特徴とする電子透かし検出方法。

【請求項8】

Gap検出ステップで、検出対象画像を構成する時間方向の画像データのうち、注目画 像データに対して時間的に近傍に位置する画像データの画素値平均の差分をGap値とし て算出することを特徴とする請求項7記載の電子透かし検出方法。

【請求項9】

相関検出ステップで、検出対象画像を構成する時間方向の画像データのうち、注目画像 データに対して時間的に近傍に位置する画像データの画素値平均をリファレンス画像とし

て逐次算出し、これらリファレンス画像における画素値変化パターンと上記検出対象画像 に埋め込まれるべき電子透かしの画素値変化パターンとの相関値を算出することを特徴と する請求項7記載の電子透かし検出方法。

【請求項10】

Gap検出ステップ及び相関検出ステップで、検出値の上下限値を制限するクリップ処理を実行することを特徴とする請求項7記載の電子透かし検出方法。

【請求項11】

Gap検出ステップ及び相関検出ステップで、検出対象画像中のシーンチェンジに同期 して検出処理を実行することを特徴とする請求項7記載の電子透かし検出方法。

【請求項12】

Gap検出ステップ及び相関検出ステップで、検出対象画像を構成する画像データのうちシーンチェンジに起因する画像の乱れを含む画像データを検出処理に使用しないことを特徴とする請求項11記載の電子透かし検出方法。

【請求項13】

電子透かし埋め込み対象の電子画像を複数の画像領域に空間的に分割する分割処理部と

画素値の変化が視認されにくい特性を有する画素を適応画素として上記画像領域ごとに抽出する適応抽出部と、

電子透かしの埋め込みビット値に応じて、上記画像領域間及び時間方向で上記適応画素の画素値を変化させる電子透かし情報を生成する透かし情報生成部と、

上記電子透かし情報に基づいて上記電子画像の画素値を変化させると共に、上記画像領域間の境界及び/又は時間方向で画素値変化の遷移が緩慢になるように段階的に変化させることにより電子透かし埋め込み画像を生成する埋め込み処理部と

を備えた電子透かし埋め込み装置。

【請求項14】

電子透かし埋め込み対象の電子画像を空間的に複数の画像領域に分割し、電子透かしの埋め込みビット値に応じて上記画像領域間及び時間方向で画素値を変化させることにより電子透かしが埋め込まれた検出対象画像から上記埋め込みビットを検出する電子透かし検出装置において、

上記検出対象画像の画像領域ごとに電子透かし埋め込みによる時間方向での画素値変化 に対応した画素値差分をGap値として検出するGap検出部と、

上記検出対象画像に埋め込まれるべき電子透かしによる上記画像領域間及び時間方向での画素値変化パターンと上記検出対象画像の時間方向での画素値変化パターンとの相関値を検出する相関検出部と、

上記Gap値及び上記相関値についての上記画像分割領域ごとの検出結果から上記埋め込みビットをそれぞれ判定し、これら判定結果を相補的に判断して最終的な埋め込みビットを決定する埋め込みビット判定部と

を備えたことを特徴とする電子透かし検出装置。

【請求項15】

Gap検出部は、検出対象画像を構成する時間方向の画像データのうち、注目画像データに対して時間的に近傍に位置する画像データの画素値平均の差分をGap値として算出することを特徴とする請求項14記載の電子透かし検出装置。

【請求項16】

相関検出部は、検出対象画像を構成する時間方向の画像データのうち、注目画像データに対して時間的に近傍に位置する画像データの画素値平均をリファレンス画像として逐次算出し、これらリファレンス画像における画素値変化パターンと上記検出対象画像に埋め込まれるべき電子透かしの画素値変化パターンとの相関値を算出することを特徴とする請求項14記載の電子透かし検出装置。

【請求項17】

電子透かし埋め込み対象の電子画像を複数の画像領域に空間的に分割する分割処理部、

画素値の変化が視認されにくい特性を有する画素を適応画素として上記画像領域ごとに 抽出する適応抽出部、

電子透かしの埋め込みビット値に応じて上記画像領域間及び時間方向で上記適応画素の 画素値を変化させる電子透かし情報を生成する透かし情報生成部、

上記電子透かし情報に基づいて上記電子画像の画素値を変化させると共に、上記画像領域間の境界及び/又は時間方向で画素値変化の遷移が緩慢になるように段階的に変化させることにより電子透かし埋め込み画像を生成する埋め込み処理部

としてコンピュータを機能させるプログラム。

【請求項18】

電子透かし埋め込み対象の電子画像を空間的に複数の画像領域に分割し、電子透かしの埋め込みビット値に応じて上記画像領域間及び時間方向で画素値を変化させることにより電子透かしが埋め込まれた検出対象画像から上記埋め込みビットを検出する電子透かし検出装置としてコンピュータを機能させるプログラムにおいて、

上記検出対象画像の画像領域ごとに電子透かし埋め込みによる時間方向での画素値変化に対応した画素値差分をGap値として検出するGap検出部、

上記検出対象画像に埋め込まれるべき電子透かしによる上記画像領域間及び時間方向での画素値変化パターンと上記検出対象画像の時間方向での画素値変化パターンとの相関値を検出する相関検出部、

上記Gap値及び上記相関値についての上記画像分割領域ごとの検出結果から上記埋め 込みビットをそれぞれ判定し、これら判定結果を相補的に判断して最終的な埋め込みビットを決定する埋め込みビット判定部

としてコンピュータを機能させるプログラム。

【請求項19】

Gap検出部は、検出対象画像を構成する時間方向の画像データのうち、注目画像データに対して時間的に近傍に位置する画像データの画素値平均の差分をGap値として算出することを特徴とする請求項18記載のプログラム。

【請求項20】

相関検出部は、検出対象画像を構成する時間方向の画像データのうち、注目画像データに対して時間的に近傍に位置する画像データの画素値平均をリファレンス画像として逐次算出し、これらリファレンス画像における画素値変化パターンと上記検出対象画像に埋め込まれるべき電子透かしの画素値変化パターンとの相関値を算出することを特徴とする請求項18記載のプログラム。

【書類名】明細書

【発明の名称】電子透かし埋め込み方法、電子透かし検出方法及び装置並びにプログラム 【技術分野】

[0001]

この発明は、ディスプレイなどの表示画面に表示した画像を再撮影して得られる再撮画像から電子透かしを検出することができる電子透かし埋め込み方法、電子透かし検出方法及びこれら方法を使用する装置並びにそのプログラムに関するものである。

【背景技術】

[0002]

近年のテレビカメラの性能向上や低コスト化により、ディスプレイなどの表示画面に表示した画像や映像を画質良く再撮影することが容易になってきている。この技術向上は、反面再撮影した画像や映像などの著作物の不正使用の要因にもなっている。例えば、映画館などで上映された映像を直接ディジタルカメラで再撮し、DVD(Digital Versatile Disk)などにコピーしたものを違法販売する事件も起こっている。

[0003]

このような再撮画像を対象とする電子透かし技術としては、例えば非特許文献1に開示されるものがある。この技術では、電子透かしを埋め込む対象の動画像に対して電子透かしとして時間方向(フレーム方向又はフィールド方向)に輝度変化を施している。

[0004]

これにより、著作権情報を電子透かしとして埋め込んでおけば、不正にコピーされた再 撮画像からでも上記著作権情報を取り出すことができ、その著作権を主張することができ る。これは、再撮影による不正コピーを抑止することにも繋がる。

[0005]

【非特許文献 1 】 J. Haitsma and T. Kalker, "A watermarking scheme for digital cinema", ICIP'01 - IEEE, pp.487-489.

【発明の開示】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】

[0006]

非特許文献1に開示される再撮画像の電子透かし技術では、動画像に対して時間方向(フレーム方向又はフィールド方向)に輝度を変化させることによって再撮画像に対応可能な電子透かしを埋め込んでいる。しかしながら、電子透かしの埋め込み対象の動画像によっては、時間方向での輝度変化によって生じたフレーム画像間の輝度の違いなどが再生中に明暗部として目視することができてしまうという課題があった。

[0007]

また、電子透かしの埋め込み量を増加させる方法として、フレーム画像(又はフィールド画像)を空間的に複数の領域に分割して分割領域ごとに埋め込みビットに対応する画素値変化を施すことが考えられるが、電子透かしの埋め込み対象の動画像によって画質が劣化してしまうという課題があった。

[0008]

例えば、フレーム画像などを複数の領域に空間的に分割して分割領域ごとに輝度変調を 施す場合、電子透かしの埋め込み対象の画像によっては輝度変調によりフレーム画像上の 分割領域に明暗差が生じ、分割領域の境界線が再生中に目視できてしまう。

[0009]

この発明は、上記のような課題を解決するためになされたもので、再撮画像に対応可能 な電子透かしを画質を劣化させることがなく埋め込むことができ、この電子透かしを高精 度に検出することができる電子透かしの埋め込み方法及びその検出方法を得ることを目的 とする。

$\{0.010\}$

また、この発明は、上記方法を用いた電子透かし埋め込み装置、電子透かし検出装置及びこれらをコンピュータに実現させるプログラムを得ることを目的とする。

【課題を解決するための手段】

[0011]

この発明に係る電子透かし埋め込み方法は、電子透かし埋め込み対象の電子画像を複数の画像領域に空間的に分割する分割処理ステップと、画素値の変化が視認されにくい特性を有する画素を適応画素として上記画像領域ごとに抽出する適応抽出ステップと、電子透かしの埋め込みビット値に応じて上記画像領域間及び時間方向で上記適応画素の画素値を変化させると共に、上記画像領域間の境界及び/又は時間方向で画素値変化の遷移が緩慢になるように段階的に変化させることにより電子透かし埋め込み画像を生成する埋め込みステップとを備えるものである。

[0012]

この発明に係る電子透かし検出方法は、検出対象画像の画像領域ごとに電子透かし埋め込みによる時間方向での画素値変化に対応した画素値差分をGap値として検出するGap検出ステップと、上記検出対象画像に埋め込まれるべき電子透かしによる上記画像領域間及び時間方向での画素値変化パターンと上記検出対象画像の時間方向での画素値変化パターンとの相関値を検出する相関検出ステップと、Gap値及び相関値についての上記画像分割領域ごとの検出結果から上記埋め込みビットをそれぞれ判定し、これら判定結果を相補的に判断して最終的な埋め込みビットを決定する埋め込みビット判定ステップとを備えるものである。

【発明の効果】

[0013]

この発明によれば、電子透かし埋め込み対象の電子画像を複数の画像領域に空間的に分割し、画素値の変化が視認されにくい特性を有する画素を適応画素として上記画像領域ごとに抽出して、電子透かしの埋め込みビット値に応じて上記画像領域間及び時間方向で上記適応画素の画素値を変化させると共に、上記画像領域間の境界及び/又は時間方向で画素値変化の遷移が緩慢になるように段階的に変化させることにより電子透かし埋め込み画像を生成するので、再撮画像に対する電子透かしの耐性を維持しつつ、その埋め込みによる視覚的な妨害を格段に低減させることができるという効果がある。

[0014]

この発明によれば、検出対象画像の画像領域ごとに電子透かし埋め込みによる時間方向での画素値変化に対応した画素値差分をGap値として検出すると共に、検出対象画像に埋め込まれるべき電子透かしによる画像領域間及び時間方向での画素値変化パターンと上記検出対象画像の時間方向での画素値変化パターンとの相関値を検出し、Gap値及び相関値についての上記画像分割領域ごとの検出結果から上記埋め込みビットをそれぞれ判定し、これら判定結果を相補的に判断して最終的な埋め込みビットを決定するので、電子透かしの検出結果の信頼性や検出精度を向上させることができるという効果がある。

【発明を実施するための最良の形態】

[0015]

実施の形態1.

図1は、この発明の実施の形態1による電子透かし埋め込み装置の構成を示すブロック 図である。電子透かし埋め込み装置1は、画像分割部2、適応抽出部3、埋め込み処理部 4及び透かし情報生成部5から構成される。電子透かし埋め込み装置1は、例えば汎用コ ンピュータなどを用いて、本発明に従う電子透かし埋め込みプログラムを実行させること によって具現化することができる。

[0016]

つまり、電子透かし埋め込みプログラムをコンピュータに実行させて上記構成要素2~5として機能させることにより、電子透かし埋め込み装置1による特徴的なデータ処理を実行することができる。なお、以下の説明において、電子透かし埋め込み装置1を具現化するコンピュータ自体の構成及びその基本的な機能については、当業者が当該分野の技術常識に基づいて容易に認識できるものであり、本発明の本質に直接関わるものでないので詳細な記載を省略する。

[0017]

画像分割部2は、入力された電子画像(図1では、複数のフレームからなる動画像として示す。以下、入力電子画像と称する)6 a を複数領域の情報に空間的に分割した電子画像6 b を生成する。以降では、図2に示すように、画像分割部2が、入力電子画像6 a のフレーム画像を4分割する場合を例に挙げて説明する。なお、図2では、分割した各領域を区別するためにそれぞれの領域に符号A,B,C,Dを付している。

[0018]

また、後述するが、画像分割部2は、入力電子画像6aのフレーム画像を分割するにあたり、各分割領域の境界にガードバンド (Guard Band) を設定する。つまり、電子画像6bのフレーム画像は、ガードバンドを介して分割される。

[0019]

適応抽出部3は、所定の振幅(変化分)で画素値を変化させても画質を劣化させない画素を特定するための適応条件が設定されており、画像分割部2から入力した電子画像6 bの分割領域ごとに適応条件に応じた画素を、電子透かしの埋め込み対象画素(以降、適応画素と称する)として抽出する。

[0020]

埋め込み処理部4は、適応抽出部3が抽出した電子画像6bの適応画素に対して、透かし情報生成部5からの電子透かし情報7に応じて空間的及び時間方向で画素値を変化させて電子透かし埋め込み済みの電子画像6cを生成し出力する。

[0021]

つまり、電子透かしの埋め込みビットの値に応じて、電子画像 6 b のフレーム画像の分割領域ごとに適応画素の画素値を変化させる空間的な画素値変化に加え、この空間的な変化パターンの時間方向(フレーム方向)での変化を規定することで電子透かし埋め込みが実行される。

[0022]

以降の説明では、埋め込み処理部4が、電子透かし情報7に応じて、フレーム画像内で 適応画素の輝度値を空間的に変化させ、且つこれを時間方向(フレーム方向)に変化させ る場合を例に挙げ、適応抽出部3には、輝度レベルについての適応条件が設定されている ものとする。

[0023]

透かし情報生成部5は、電子透かしを構成する埋め込みビットに応じて電子透かし情報7を生成して埋め込み処理部4に出力する。電子透かし情報7は、埋め込みビットに応じて、電子画像6bの分割領域の画素値を変化させる空間的な電子透かしパターン及びその時間方向(フレーム方向)の変化パターンを規定する情報である。

[0024]

例えば、電子透かし情報7は、埋め込み処理部4が、電子画像6bの4分割した領域のうち、対角2領域を用いて空間的に2ビットの情報を埋め込み、さらに対角2領域ごとに時間方向に異なる位相(例えば、90°位相をずらす)で輝度変化を与えて2ビットの情報を埋め込むように設定する。このようにすることで、空間的及び時間方向での輝度変化で1フレーム画像あたり合計4ビットの電子透かしを埋め込むことができる。

[0025]

また、埋め込み処理部4は、画像分割部2によって設けられたガードバンドで空間的な輝度値変化が緩慢になるように埋め込み処理を実行し、さらに同一の分割領域についての時間方向のガードバンドで時間方向(フレーム方向)の輝度値変化が緩慢になるように埋め込み処理を実行する。

[0026]

図3は実施の形態1による電子透かしパターンの一例とその時間変化を示す図であり、(a)は空間的なガードバンドを含む電子透かしパターンを示し、(b)は時間方向のガードバンドを含む(a)のパターンの時間変化を示している。(a)の例では、図2で示した領域B, Cの輝度値は変化させず(図中、0を付した部分)、領域A, Dの輝度値を

全て+1変化させている(図中、記号+を付した部分)。

[0027]

また、(a) において、空間的なガードバンドGBの幅は、例えば32ピクセル (pixe 1) とする。この幅は、異なる変化分で輝度変化させた領域間の境界が視認されない程度のものであればよく、本発明による電子透かしを埋め込む対象画像の画像特性に応じて適宜決定する。さらに、領域B, D間のガードバンドGBの領域B側の境界線をBaと称し、領域D側の境界線をBbと称する。

[0028]

領域B側の境界線Baでは、例えば輝度値を+1変化させる確率を1/33とし、ガードバンドGB内で領域D側に近づくにつれて当該確率値を徐々に上昇させる。そして、領域D側の境界線Bbでは、輝度値を+1変化させる確率を32/33とする。このようにすることで、電子透かしとして一方の領域に設定すべき輝度の変化分から他方の領域に設定すべき輝度の変化分まで徐々に変化することになる。

[0029]

さらに、電子透かしを構成するビット値に応じて時間方向で輝度値を変化させる際、(b)に示すように、例えば領域A,Dについて輝度変調の起点となるフレームから第10番目のフレームまで輝度値を+1変化させ、第10番目フレームから第15番目のフレームまでの間で徐々に輝度値の変化分が0になるように設定する。

[0030]

ここでは、図中の期間 Bc において、輝度値を+1 変化させた状態から変化分が 0 になるまでに 1 フレームごとに輝度値を+1 変化させた画素が減り、その分だけ変化無しの画素が増加するように、確率 1/6 の割合で輝度の変化分を 0 にする画素を増加させる。

[0031]

このように、本発明の電子透かし埋め込み装置1では、時間方向でも輝度値の変化を緩慢にする(時間方向のガードバンド)。これにより、再撮画像に対する電子透かしを埋め込むことによる画質劣化を防止することができる。

[0032]

図4は、図3に示す方法で埋め込んだ空間的なガードバンドを含む電子透かし埋め込み 基底と時間方向のガードバンドの具体例を示す図である。なお、輝度値の変化を理解しや すくするため、輝度値を+1変化させた画素を黒色で示し、輝度値を変化させない画素を 白色で示している。

[0033]

図4 (a) に示すように、空間的な輝度変化において、ガードバンドGBによって領域A,Dと領域B,Cとの間の境界線がほかされた状態になる。また、時間方向での輝度値変化においても、図4 (b) に示すように、時間方向のガードバンドによって電子透かしとして時間的に先に設定した輝度値から後に設定する輝度値に至るまで急激に変化することなく、その中間状態が設定される。

[0034]

図5は、埋め込みビットごとの適応処理とその時間変化を示す図である。図示の例では、適応抽出部3が、電子画像6bの分割領域ごとに適応条件を満たす適応画素A,Bを抽出する。また、埋め込み処理部4は、適応抽出部3により電子画像6bの分割領域ごとに抽出された適応画素A,Bに対し、透かし情報生成部5からの電子透かし情報7に応じて、図中の埋め込み周期(30フレーム周期)で輝度値を変化させる。

[0035]

例えば、電子透かしの埋め込みビットが「00」である場合、電子透かし情報7に従って処理の起点となるフレームから第15番目のフレームまでの適応画素Aの輝度値を+1変化させ、第16番目から第30番目のフレームまでの適応画素Bの輝度値を-1変化させる。埋め込みビットが「01」である場合は、その逆位相の処理を実行する。

[0036]

また、図2で示した分割領域のうちの対角2領域について輝度変化が逆位相となるよう 出証特2005-3026138 にする場合、以下のような処理を実行する。

先ず、図2中の領域A, Dに設定すべき埋め込みビットが「00」である場合、図2中の領域Aから抽出した適応画素A, Bに対して図5中の埋め込みビット00に対応する周期で輝度値を変化させる。また、図2中の領域Dから抽出した適応画素A, Bに対しては、図5中の埋め込みビット01に対応する周期で輝度値を変化させる。

[0037]

また、図2中の領域A,Dに設定すべき埋め込みビットが「01」であれば、反対に領域Aに対して図5中の埋め込みビット01に対応する周期で輝度値を変化させ、領域Dに対しては図5中の埋め込みビット00に対応する周期で輝度値を変化させる。

[0038]

さらに、図2中の領域A, Dに設定すべき埋め込みビットが「10」であれば、領域Aに対して図5中の埋め込みビット10に対応する周期で輝度値を変化させ、領域Dに対しては図5中の埋め込みビット11に対応する周期で輝度値を変化させる。

[0039]

図2中の領域A, Dに設定すべき埋め込みビットが「11」であれば、領域Aに対して図5中の埋め込みビット11に対応する周期で輝度値を変化させ、領域Dに対しては図5中の埋め込みビット10に対応する周期で輝度値を変化させる。これらの処理は、図2中の領域B, Cについても同様である。

[0040]

また、図2で示した分割領域のうちの対角2領域について輝度変化が同位相となるようにする場合、図2中の領域A, Dに設定すべき埋め込みビットが「00」であれば、図2中の領域A, Dに対して図5中の埋め込みビット00に対応する周期で輝度変化処理をそれぞれ実行する。埋め込みビットが「01」、「10」、「11」である場合も同様の要領で輝度変化処理を実行する。

[0041]

次に動作について説明する。

電子透かしの埋め込み対象である入力電子画像6aは、電子透かし埋め込み装置1内部の画像分割部2に入力される。画像分割部2は、入力電子画像6aをフレーム画像ごとに複数領域に空間的に分割した電子画像6bを生成する。なお、上述したように、電子画像6bのフレーム画像ごとの分割領域は、図3及び図4で示したガードバンドGBを境界として分割される。

[0042]

適応抽出部3は、画像分割部2から電子画像6bを入力し、そのフレーム画像の分割領域ごとに、例えば図6に示す画素の輝度レベルについての適応条件に基づいて適応画素ABを抽出する。

[0043]

図6は、埋め込みビットごとの輝度レベルでの適応処理を示す図であり、各埋め込みビットに対応する埋め込み周期は図5に示したものと同様であるものとする。図に示すように、輝度値が180以上の画素が適応画素Bとして抽出される。また、適応画素Aとしては、輝度値が129以上の画素及び輝度値が128以下のNext50%に対応する画素が該当する。輝度値128以下のNext50%とは、輝度値が128以下である画素の中で輝度値が大きい上位半分までの画素を意味する。

[0044]

なお、輝度値128以下のNext50%に対応する画素は、輝度値が129以上の画素数が少ない画像であって電子透かしを検出するのに十分な埋め込み量を確保することができない場合に適応画素Aとして抽出するようにしてもよい。

[0045]

人間の視覚特性上、輝度値が低く暗い画像であるほど、その輝度値を変化させると、その変化が視認されやすくなる。そこで、上述した適応画素を抽出する基準輝度値128は、画像中の輝度を変化させた際にその変化が視認されない下限の輝度値として、ウェーバ

ー・フェフィナーの法則などを考慮した検討実験により決定する。

[0046]

適応抽出部3は、上述した輝度レベルについての適応条件を満たす適応画素A, Bを電子画像6bの分割領域ごとに抽出し、これら画素を特定する情報(画像上の位置座標など)を埋め込み処理部4に出力する。

[0047]

埋め込み処理部4は、適応抽出部3からの情報に従って電子画像6bの分割領域ごとに抽出された適応画素A,Bに対し、透かし情報生成部5からの電子透かし情報7に応じて、図5中の埋め込み周期で輝度変化処理を実行する。

[0048]

例えば、透かし情報生成部5から得た埋め込みビットが「00」である場合、図5を用いて上述したように、埋め込み処理部4は、処理の起点となるフレームから第15番目のフレームまでの適応画素Aの輝度値を+1変化させ、第16番目から第30番目のフレームまでの適応画素Bの輝度値を-1変化させる。

[0049]

なお、図5では、説明の簡単のために図3(b)で示した期間Bc(時間方向のガードバンド)を設けていないが、時間方向の画素値変調による視覚的な影響がある場合は、時間方向のガードバンドを設けるようにしてもよい。

[0050]

また、電子透かし埋め込みによる視覚的影響を考慮すると、輝度値の変化分は±1の範囲であることが望ましい。しかしながら、輝度値が十分に高く輝度変調による影響が視認しにくい適応画素(例えば、輝度値190以上)であれば、電子透かし埋め込みに係る輝度値の変化分を2倍(±2)にして電子透かしの埋め込み強度を増加するようにしても良い。

[0051]

さらに、輝度値が129以上の画素数が少ない画像であって電子透かしを検出するのに十分な埋め込み量を確保することができない場合、適応抽出部3が、輝度値が128以下の画素の輝度平均値より大きい輝度を有する画素を抽出するようにしても良い。

[0052]

なお、埋め込み処理部4は、上述したように画像分割部2によって設けられたガードバンドで領域間の輝度値変化が緩慢になるように埋め込み処理を実行する。また、時間方向のガードバンドを設定する場合は、当該ガードバンドにて時間方向の輝度値変化が緩慢になるように埋め込み処理を実行する。

[0053]

また、映像中のシーンチェンジは、フレームやフィールドの画像相関が時間方向で顕著に変化し、埋め込み処理の同期基準となり得る有意な事象である。そこで、本実施の形態による埋め込み処理部4では、対象画像のシーンチェンジに同期させて電子透かし埋め込み処理を実行する。

[0054]

この場合、埋め込み処理部4は、例えば電子透かしの埋め込み対象の画像におけるフレームの画像相関の時間方向での変化が所定の閾値を超えるものをシーンチェンジとして検出する。そして、埋め込み処理部4は、検出したシーンチェンジ以後のフレームを起点として上述した時間方向での輝度変化処理を実行する。

[0055]

これにより、電子透かし埋め込み処理における時間方向での輝度変化処理が、電子透かし情報7に応じた埋め込み周期からずれるようなことがあっても、対象画像中のシーンチェンジを基準として上記周期との同期を回復させることができる。また、本発明による電子透かしを検出する際、電子透かしの埋め込みパターンにおける位相を的確に復元することもできる。

[0056]

埋め込み処理部4は、上述のようにして、透かし情報生成部5から入力される電子透かし情報7に応じた輝度変化処理を完了すると、これにより得られた画像を電子透かし埋め込み済みの画像6cとして出力する。

[0057]

以上のように、この実施の形態1では、対象画像から所定の振幅(変化分)で画素値(輝度など)を変化させても画質を劣化させない画素を適応画素として抽出すると共に、空間的及び時間方向での画素値変化に対して当該変化を緩慢にするガードバンドを設けたので、再撮画像に対する電子透かしの耐性を維持しつつ、その埋め込みによる視覚的な妨害を格段に低減させることができる。

[0058]

なお、上記実施の形態 1 では、電子透かしの埋め込みに空間的及び時間方向での輝度変化処理を実行する例を示したが、輝度に限らず、再撮画像においても検出することができる画素値であればよい。

[0059]

実施の形態2.

上記実施の形態1では、輝度変化を施しても画質が劣化しない輝度レベルとして輝度値128以上の適応画素を抽出する例を示したが、この適応画素のみでは埋め込み量が十分でなく電子透かしが検出できない場合がある。

[0060]

ここで、埋め込み対象の画像において、元々フレーム画像(又はフィールド画像)間での画素値変化が大きい画素は、一般的に動きが激しい映像を構成することが多く、画素値変化による視覚的な影響が少ないことが予想される。

[0061]

そこで、実施の形態2では、フレーム差分値(又は、フィールド差分値)からフレーム 画像(又はフィールド画像)間での画素値変化が大きい画素を検出し、電子透かしを埋め 込むべき適応画素として選択するものである。

[0062]

なお、実施の形態2による電子透かし埋め込み装置の構成は、上記実施の形態1で示したものと基本的に同一であるが、適応抽出部3及び埋め込み処理部4が対象画像に対してフレーム差分を用いた上記適応処理を実行する点で異なる。

[0063]

次にフレーム差分を用いた適応処理について詳細に説明する。

図 7 は、この発明の実施の形態 2 による電子透かし埋め込み装置のフレーム差分の算出 方法を説明する図である。図において、フレーム 1, 2 は、電子画像 6 b の時間的に前後 するフレーム画像を示している。また、フレーム 1, 2 を構成する画素の画素値(例えば 、輝度値)をそれぞれ x 1, x 2, · · · , x n 及び y 1, y 2, · · · · , y n とすると 、フレーム差分 Δ F (n) は、絶対値として下記式 (1) を用いて求めることができる。 Δ F (n) = |x n - y n | · · · · (1)

[0064]

図8は、実施の形態2による埋め込みビットごとのフレーム差分を用いた適応処理を示す図であり、各埋め込みビット(図示の例では「00」、「01」)に対応する埋め込み周期は図5に示したものと同様であるものとする。適応抽出部3は、輝度値180以上の画素を適応画素Bとして抽出する上、上記実施の形態1と異なり、輝度値が128以上の画素に加え、輝度値が128未満の画素も適応画素Aとして抽出する。

[0065]

ここで、輝度値128未満のNext50%とは、輝度値が128未満である画素の中で輝度値が大きい上位半分までの画素を意味する。また、輝度値128未満残りとは、輝度値128未満のNext50%である画素より輝度値が低い画素を意味する。

[0066]

適応抽出部3は、上記実施の形態1と同様な処理にて、電子画像6bの分割領域ごとに 出証特2005-3026138 図8に示す輝度レベルの適応画素A, Bを抽出する。さらに、適応抽出部3は、上記式(1)に従って電子画像6bの時間的に前後するフレーム間で画素ごとのフレーム差分を算出し、適応画素を特定する情報(画像中の位置座標など)と共に画素ごとの算出結果を埋め込み処理部4に出力する。

[0067]

埋め込み処理部4では、フレーム差分値の大きさと輝度レベルに基づいて、適応画素の輝度値に加えるべき変化分を決定して埋め込み処理を実行する。図8の例で説明すると、埋め込み処理部4は、適応抽出部3により算出されたフレーム差分値が2以下である画素を、フレーム間での画素値変化が小さい(動きが小さい)画素であると認識する。このフレーム差分値に該当する適応画素については、輝度変化処理を施しても変化が視認されない輝度値128以上の画素のみの輝度値を変化させる。

[0068]

また、フレーム差分値が3以上7以下であると、埋め込み処理部4は、フレーム間での画素値変化が中程度である画素と認識し、輝度値128以上の適応画素に加え、輝度値128未満のNext50%に該当する適応画素にも輝度変化処理を実行する。

[0069]

一方、フレーム差分値が8以上であると、埋め込み処理部4は、フレーム間での画素値変化が大きい(動きが激しい)画素であると認識する。このフレーム差分値に該当する適応画素については、輝度変化処理を施しても変化が視認されにくいものと判断し、輝度値128未満の適応画素についても輝度変化処理を実行する。

[0070]

なお、上述したフレーム差分値の閾値は、電子透かし埋め込み済みの画像 6 c の画質に応じて適切な値を埋め込み処理部 4 に設定できるように構成しても良い。

[0071]

以上のように、この実施の形態2によれば、フレーム差分に応じて電子透かしの埋め込みを実行するので、フレーム間での画素値変化が大きく、画素値の変化が視認されにくい画素を適応画素として抽出することができ、電子透かしの埋め込み量を増加させることができる。これにより、本発明による電子透かしの耐性を向上させることができる。

[0072]

上記実施の形態2では、フレーム差分を用いる例を示したがフィールド差分を用いても 良い。この形態としても基本的に同一の構成で同様の効果を得ることができる。

[0073]

実施の形態3.

- この実施の形態 3 は、電子透かしの埋め込み量を増加させるために、対象画像中のエッジ部分の画素を埋め込み対象の適応画素とするものである。

[0074]

実施の形態3による電子透かし埋め込み装置の構成は、上記実施の形態1で示したものと基本的に同一であるが、適応抽出部3及び埋め込み処理部4が対象画像に対してエッジ 適応処理を実行する点で異なる。

[0075]

次にエッジ適応処理による適応画素の選定について説明する。

先ず、適応抽出部3は、実施の形態1又は実施の形態2で示した処理で電子透かしを埋め込んだ電子画像6cbに対して、垂直方向エッジフィルタ処理、孤立点除去処理及び3点NAM処理を順に実施してエッジ部分を強調した画像を求める。

図9は、実施の形態3による電子透かし埋め込み装置のエッジ適応処理を説明する図であり、(a)は垂直方向エッジフィルタ処理、(b)は孤立点除去処理、(c)は3点NAM処理を示している。この図を用いて各処理を説明する。なお、図9では、処理対象の画像(電子画像6b)の画像サイズが720×486画素である場合を例にしている。

[0076]

垂直方向エッジフィルタ処理では、処理対象の画像中の注目画素とこれに隣接する画素 出証特2005-3026138 とから垂直方向のエッジを強調する。具体的には、下記式(2)に従って注目画素(座標 (x, y))の垂直方向のエッジを強調した画素値Ya(x, y)を求める。

Y a (x, y) = |-Y (xp, y)/2+Y (x, y)-Y (xn, y)/2 |

 $0 \le x < 719$, $0 \le y < 485$ のとき、xp = x - 1、xn = x + 1

x = 0 のとき、x p = x + 1、x n = x + 1

x = 7 190 28, xp = x - 1, xn = x - 1

[0077]

適応抽出部3は、上述の処理を施して垂直方向のエッジを強調した画像に対して、突発的な画素値変化がエッジとして認識されないように孤立点除去処理を実行する。図示の例では、注目画素(画素値Ya(x,y))の8近傍画素値を取得し、下記式(3)に従って8近傍のうち3番目に大きな画素値maxYaと注目画素の画素値Ya(x,y)で最小値を与える画素を孤立点(画素値Yb(x,y))として除去する。

[0078]

 $Yb (x, y) = min (Ya (x, y), max Ya) \cdot \cdot \cdot (3)$

x p = x - 1, x n = x + 1, y p = y - 1, y n = y + 1

x = 0 のとき、x p = x + 1、x n = x + 1

y = 0 のとき、y p = y + 1、y n = y + 1

y = 485023, y p = y - 1, y n = y - 1

但し、maxYaは、自画素を含まない周囲の画素(8近傍画素)で3番目に大きな画素値を示し、下記式(4)で表される。

maxYa=Mth (Ya (xp, yp), Ya (x, yp), Ya (xn, yp), Ya (xn, yp), Ya (xp, y), Ya (xn, yp), Ya (xn, yn), Ya (xn, yn), Ya (xn, yn))

Mth関数は3番目に大きな値を戻す。

[0079]

続いて、適応抽出部3は、垂直方向のエッジを強調し孤立点除去処理を施した画像に対して3点NAM処理を実行する。具体的には、下記式(5)に従ってエッジ部分の注目画素(座標(x, y))とこれに隣接する2画素とから注目画素がエッジ部分に該当すると大きな値となるエッジ度Yc(x, y)を求める。これはエッジ強調処理でもあり、Yc(x, y)を画像として眺めるとエッジ強調画像になる一方で、Yc(x, y)が大きいことは座標(x, y)に位置する注目画素がエッジ部分としての性質が強いことを示す指標になる。

$$Y c (x, y) = max (Y b (x p, y), Y b (x, y), Y b (x n, y))$$
 $\cdot \cdot \cdot (5)$

x p = x - 1, x n = x + 1

x = 0 のとき、x p = x + 1

[0080]

適応抽出部 3 は、上述のようにしてエッジ適応処理を施した画像中のエッジを構成する画素のうち所定のエッジ度(Y c)以上(例えば、Y c \ge 1 0)の画素を抽出し、これらを特定する情報(画像中の位置座標など)を求める。

[0081]

次に、適応抽出部3は、エッジ適応処理を施していない原画像(電子画像6 c b)から 所定のエッジ度レベルについての適応条件を満たす適応画素A, Bを抽出し、これら画素 を特定する情報(画像上の位置座標など)を埋め込み処理部4に出力する。

[0082]

埋め込み処理部4は、適応抽出部3からのエッジ部分で所定のエッジ度以上の画素や適 応画素を特定する情報に従って原画像である電子画像6cbの適応画素に対し、図5中の

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埋め込み周期で輝度変化処理を実行する。

[0083]

図10は、埋め込みビットごとのエッジ適応処理を示す図である。上記処理を図示の例で説明すると、適応抽出部3は、エッジ適応処理した画像からエッジを構成する画素のうちエッジ度が10以上のものを抽出し、これらを特定する情報(位置座標)を求める。また、原画像である電子画像6bから輝度値128以上及び輝度値180以上の画素を適応画素として抽出し、これらを特定する情報(位置座標)を求める。これらの情報は、埋め込み処理部4に出力される。

[0084]

次に、埋め込み処理部4は、図10に示すように、適応Aまたは適応Bの適応処理の変化量を増加させる。すなわち適応Aではエッジ適応処理画像から選定したエッジ部分のエッジ度10以上の画素であって輝度値が128以上の適応画素の輝度値の変化を1増加させる。適応Bでは適応Aの処理に加えて特に輝度値が180以上の適応画素の輝度値の変化を1増加させる。適応Aの処理によってほぼ充分に変化を与えることができるが、適応Bの処理を追加すると視覚的妨害の増加なくさらに強固な変化とすることができ、検出結果が安定する。

[0085]

以上のように、この実施の形態3によれば、実施の形態1又は実施の形態2で示した処理で電子透かしを埋め込んだ電子画像6cに対してエッジ部分で所定のエッジ度以上の画素をさらに適応画素として抽出して電子透かしを埋め込むので、透かし埋め込み量を増加させることができ、電子透かしの耐性を向上させることができる。

[0086]

なお、上記実施の形態 1 ~ 3 では異なる適応処理をそれぞれ説明したが、これらを組み合わせた適応処理を実行しても良い。

[0087]

実施の形態 4.

図11は、この発明の実施の形態4による電子透かし検出装置の構成を示すプロック図である。電子透かし検出装置8は、Gap検出部9、相関検出部10及び埋め込みビット判定部11から構成される。電子透かし検出装置8は、例えば汎用コンピュータなどを用いて、本発明に従う電子透かし検出プログラムを実行させることによって具現化することができる。

[0088]

つまり、電子透かし検出プログラムをコンピュータに実行させて上記構成要素 9~11 として機能させることにより、電子透かし検出装置 8 による特徴的なデータ処理を実行す ることができる。なお、以下の説明において、電子透かし検出装置 8 を具現化するコンピ ュータ自体の構成及びその基本的な機能については、上記実施の形態 1 と同様の理由から 詳細な記載を省略する。

[0089]

上記実施の形態 $1 \sim 3$ で説明した電子透かし埋め込み装置 1 により電子透かしが埋め込まれた電子画像 6 c において、電子透かしパターンの時間方向での変化パターンの位相が反転する時点でフレーム差分値(又はフィールド差分値)が急激に変化する。

[0090]

そこで、電子画像6cに埋め込まれた電子透かしを認識していれば、上記位相反転時点に応じて周期的に電子画像6cからフレーム差分(又はフィールド差分)を検出することで、当該フレーム差分値(又はフィールド差分値)に基づいて本発明による電子透かしパターンを復元することができる。

[0091]

Gap検出部9では、上述したような周期的なフレーム差分の検出によって、分割領域ごとに電子画像6cから電子透かしパターンの時間方向での変化における画素値の変化分(以下、Gapと称する)を検出する。また、相関検出部10は、上記実施の形態1~3

で説明した電子透かし埋め込み装置1により埋め込まれた電子透かしパターンと電子画像6cとの時間方向での画素値変化について分割領域ごとに相関を検出する。

[0092]

埋め込みビット判定部11は、Gap検出部9及び相関検出部10がそれぞれ検出したGap値及び相関値に基づいて電子画像6cに埋め込まれたビット値をそれぞれ判定し、両判定結果を総合的に判断して最終的に決定したビット値を埋め込みビットとして出力する。

[0093]

次に動作について説明する。

以降の説明では、上記実施の形態で示した電子透かし埋め込み装置1により、入力電子画像6aに電子透かしを埋め込んだ電子画像6cから上記電子透かしの埋め込みビットを検出するものとする。

[0094]

また、電子画像6cとしては、電子透かし情報7に応じて、入力電子画像6aのフレーム画像を4分割した領域の対角2領域(図2中の領域A,D及び領域B,C)の適応画素の輝度値を逆位相で変化させた透かしパターンを時間方向(フレーム方向)に変化させたものを使用する。

[0095]

さらに、対角領域A, Dには、図5で示した埋め込み周期でビット00が埋め込まれているものとする。つまり、領域Aに対して図5中の埋め込みビット00に対応する周期で輝度変化させ、領域Dに対して図5中の埋め込みビット01に対応する周期で輝度変化させている。

[0096]

電子透かし検出対象の動画像である電子画像6cを表示装置(モニタ)で再生させ、これをビデオカメラで再撮したものを電子透かし検出装置8に入力する。電子画像6cは、電子透かし検出装置8内のGap検出部9及び相関検出部10にそれぞれ入力される。

[0097]

Gap検出部9では、電子画像6cにおける電子透かし埋め込み周期に基づいてGap検出時期が設定されており、この検出周期で電子画像6cの分割領域ごとにフレーム輝度差分を算出(Gap検出)する。

[0098]

図12は、電子透かしの埋め込み周期(30フレーム周期)におけるGap検出位置を示す図であり、上記実施の形態1で示した図5中の埋め込み周期で電子透かしを埋め込んだ場合を例にしている。図示の例では、7フレーム目が終わり8フレーム目の開始時点を示す時点a、15フレーム目が終わり16フレーム目の開始時点を示す時点b、22フレーム目が終わり23フレーム目の開始時点を示す時点c、30フレーム目の開始時点を示す時点dでGapを検出する。

[0099]

時点 a, c は、図 5 中の埋め込みビット 1 0, 1 1 についての埋め込み周期の位相変化位置に対応し、時点 b, dが、図 5 中の埋め込みビット 0 0, 0 1 についての埋め込み周期の位相変化位置に対応する。

[0100]

Gap検出部9は、上記実施の形態1と同様に、フレーム方向の画像相関が顕著に変化する電子画像6cのシーンチェンジに同期して電子透かしが埋め込まれている場合、当該シーンチェンジで埋め込み周期の始点を把握し、Gap検出処理を実行する。

[0101]

この場合、Gap検出部9は、例えば電子透かしの検出対象の動画像におけるフレーム方向の画像相関の時間変化が所定の閾値を超えるものをシーンチェンジとして検出する。そして、Gap検出部9は、検出したシーンチェンジ以後のフレームを起点としてGap検出を実行する。

. [0102]

なお、シーンチェンジ後の数秒間(2~3秒)は、電子画像6cとして取り込むべき再撮データの画質が乱れる。これは、ビデオカメラのオートアイリス機能などによってシーンチェンジ後の初めの30フレームほどで輝度値が大きく変化するからである。

[0103]

そこで、Gap検出部9では、電子画像6c中のシーンチェンジに同期してGap検出を実行するにあたり、例えばシーンチェンジ後の初めの30フレームを用いず、輝度値が安定する30フレーム以降の再撮データを使用する。

[0104]

これにより、電子透かし検出処理におけるGap検出処理が、当初の検出周期からずれるようなことがあっても、対象画像中のシーンチェンジを基準として上記周期との同期を回復させることができる。

[0105]

次にGap検出処理の詳細について説明する。

Gap検出部9は、下記式(6)に従って、入力した電子画像6cの透かし埋め込み時の分割領域ごとに、Gap検出時点前後(電子透かしパターンの埋め込み位相の変化前後)のフレームの輝度平均値の差分をGap値として算出する。

Gap (i) = Y (15×i+16) - Y (15×i+15) - α · · · (6) α = (Y (15×i+15) - Y (15×i+14) + Y (15×i+17)

 $-Y (15 \times i + 16)) / 2$

ここで、Y(n) はnフィールド目の輝度平均を示す。再撮開始初めの30フレームを無視することにより、i は4, 5, 6, \cdots 、出現するY(n) はY(44), Y(45), Y(46), Y(47), Y(59), Y(60), Y(61), Y(62), Y(74), Y(75), Y(76), Y(77), \cdots となる。

[0106]

上述のようにして、Gap検出部9は、電子画像6cの透かし埋め込み時の各分割領域について、電子透かしの埋め込みビットに応じた上記埋め込み周期ごとに各Gap検出時点でGap値を算出する。これらGap値の算出が終了すると、Gap検出部9は、各分割領域A~Dにおいて各Gap検出時点a~dで得られるGap値の平均を算出する。例えば、領域AにおいてGap検出時点aで得られるGap値の平均は、下記式(7)から求められる。

【数1】

$$AGap_a = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} a(i)$$
 (7)

[0107]

[0108]

Gap検出部9は、電子画像6cの透かし埋め込み時の4分割領域について、上記各Gap検出時点でのGap値の平均を求めると、対角領域への輝度変化が逆位相であることから、下記式(8)に従って対角2領域(領域A, D及び領域B, C)のGap値(AADGapac、AADGapbd、ABCGapac、ABCGapbd)を算出する。但し、AADは領域A, Dを表し、ABCは領域B, Cを表している。

A_{AD}Gap_{ac} = (AGap_a + AGap_c - DGap_a - DGap_c) / 4

A A D G a p b d = (A G a p b + A G a p d - D G a p b - D G a p d) / 4 A B C G a p a c = (B G a p a + B G a p c - C G a p a - C G a p c) / 4 A B C G a p b d = (B G a p b + B G a p d - C G a p b - C G a p d) / 4 · · · (8)

[0109]

なお、電子透かしに係る輝度変化を対角領域に同位相にすると、画面全体の輝度変動により周期的に明るくなったり暗くなったりするのが視認できてしまうが、上述のように輝度変化を対角領域に逆位相にすることにより、画面全体の輝度の変動をキャンセルすることができる。

[0110]

このようにして求められたGapac、Gapbaは、Gap検出部9から埋め込みビット判定部11に出力される。埋め込みビット判定部11では、Gap検出部9から入力したGap値(Gapac、Gapba)を用いて、Gap検出結果に応じた埋め込みビット判定を実行する。

[0111]

図13は、Gap値と埋め込みビットとの関係を示す図であり、この図の関係に従って埋め込みビット判定部11が埋め込みビットを判定する。図中のパラメータェ、zは、Gapk出部9が算出したGap値(Gapac、Gapba)を用いて、埋め込みビット判定部11が求める。

[0112]

ここで、xは、x=max(|Gapac|, |Gapba|)であり、Gapac及びGapbdのうち、値が大きく有意値の候補となり得る方の絶対値を表している。また、zは、Gapac及びGapbdのうち、値が0に近いもの、つまり有意値の候補ではないものが該当する。

[0113]

埋め込みビット判定部11は、Gapac、Gapbdが、パラメータx、2として図 13中のいずれの関係に属するかで埋め込みビットを判定する。

[0114]

次に、相関検出による埋め込みビット判定について説明する。

図14は、電子透かしの埋め込み位相を示す図であり、図5で示した埋め込み周期における位相に対応する。相関検出部10には、上記埋め込み位相を規定する関数 f^{I} (i), f^{Q} (i) が設定されている。これにより、検出対象の画像における電子透かしパターンの時間方向(フレーム方向)の変化パターンを把握している。

[0115]

関数 f^{I} (i) は、図 5 中の埋め込みビット 0 0 0 1 に対応する埋め込み周期の位相を規定し、I-p h a s e と称することとする。また、関数 f^{Q} (i) は、図 5 中の埋め込みビット 1 0, 1 1 に対応する埋め込み周期の位相を規定する。これを Q-p h a s e と称することとする。

[0116]

相関検出部 10 は、入力した電子画像 6 c を用いて、下記式(9)を用いて相関を算出する上で使用するリファレンス画像データ α を求める。このリファレンス画像データ α は、電子画像 6 c の相関検出開始フィールドから検出対象の画像の最終フィールド(N フィールド)までの注目フィールド(相関を検出するフィールド)の前 6 0 フィールド分の輝度の平均値を示している。また、Y j は電子画像 6 c の各フィールドごとの輝度平均値である。

【数2】

$$\alpha = \frac{1}{60} \sum_{j=i-60}^{i} Y_{j}$$
 (9)

i=61,62,63,…,N(Nフィールド構成の場合)

[0117]

このように、本発明では、リファレンス画像を求めるにあたり、相関を検出するフレーム (又はフィールド) の近傍のフレーム (又はフィールド) の輝度平均値を使用する。このようにした理由は、注目フレーム近傍のフレームが一般的に互いに類似する上、フレーム画像の輝度平均値をとることで画像内容の違いによる影響が低減され、より注目フレームを近似するリファレンス画像を得ることができるからである。

[0118]

また、上述した前60フィールド分の輝度の平均値の他に、下記式(10)、(11)のいずれかを採用してリファレンス画像データ α を求めても良い。下記式(10)は、電子画像6cがNフィールドで構成されている場合、Nフィールドまでの輝度平均を求めるものであり、下記式(11)は、注目フィールドの前28後30フィールドの輝度平均である。

【数3】

$$\alpha = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N} Y_j \tag{10}$$

Nフィールド構成の場合

$$\alpha = \frac{1}{58} \sum_{j=i-28}^{i+30} Y_j \tag{1.1}$$

i=29,30,31,…,N-30 (Nフィールド構成の場合)

[0119]

【数4】

I-phaseの相関

$$\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=n}^{n}f^{1}(i)(Y_{i}-\alpha)$$

(12)

Q-phaseの相関

$$\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=n}^{n}f^{Q}(i)(Y_{i}-\alpha)$$

(13)

[0120]

上述のようにして、電子画像 6 c の透かし埋め込み時の分割領域 A, B, C, Dについ て相関値を求めると、相関検出部10は、対角領域への輝度変化が逆位相となるようにビ ット 0 0 が埋め込まれていることから、下記式(1 4)に従って対角 2 領域(領域 A, D 及び領域B, C) についての相関値C(I, Aad)、C(Q, Aad)、C(I, Ab c)、C(Q, ABc)を算出する。但し、AADは領域A, Dを表し、ABcは領域B , Cを表している。

- $C (I, A_{AD}) = \{C (I, A) C (I, D)\} / 2$
- $C (Q, A_{AD}) = \{C (Q, A) C (Q, D)\} / 2$
- $C (I, A_{BC}) = \{C (I, B) C (I, C) \} / 2$
- $C (Q, A_{B C}) = |C (Q, B) C (Q, C)| / 2$

[0121]

なお、電子透かしに係る輝度変化を対角領域に同位相にすると、画面全体の輝度変動に より周期的に明るくなったり暗くなったりするのが視認できてしまうが、上述のように輝 度変化を対角領域に逆位相にすることにより、画面全体の輝度の変動をキャンセルするこ とができる。

[0122]

このようにして求められた相関値C (I, AAD)、C (Q, AAD)、C (I, AB c)、C(Q, ABc)は、相関検出部10から埋め込みビット判定部11に出力される 。埋め込みビット判定部11では、相関値C(I, A_{A D})、C(Q, A_{A D})、C(I , A_{BC})、C (Q, A_{BC}) を用いて、相関検出結果に応じた埋め込みビット判定を実 行する。

[0123]

図15は、相関値と埋め込みビットとの関係を示す図であり、この図の関係に従って埋 め込みピット判定部 1 1 が埋め込みピットを判定する。図中のパラメータ x , z 、C (I)及びC(Q)は、相関検出部10が算出した相関値C(I, AAD)、C(Q, AAD)、C(I,ABc)、C(Q,ABc)を用いて、埋め込みビット判定部11が求める

[0124]

ここで、C (I) は、C (I) = C (I, A_{AD}) + C (I, A_{BC}) であり、C (Q) は、C (Q) = C (Q, A_{AD}) + C (Q, A_{BC}) である。また、x は、x=max(│C (I) │, │C (Q) │) であり、C (I) 及びC (Q) のうち、値が大きく有意 値の候補となり得る方の絶対値を表している。zは、C (I)及びC (Q)のうち、値が 0 に近いもの、つまり有意値の候補ではないものが該当する。

[0125]

埋め込みピット判定部11は、C(I)及びC(Q)がパラメータェ、 z として図15 出証特2005-3026138 中のいずれの関係に属するかで埋め込みビットを判定する。

[0126]

次に、埋め込みビット判定部11は、Gap検出により判定した埋め込みビット値と相関検出により判定した埋め込みビット値とを総合的に判断して最終的な埋め込みビット値を判定し出力する。

[0127]

図16は、Gap及び相関検出による判定値と埋め込みピットの最終判定値との関係を示す図である。図に示すように、本発明では、Gap及び相関検出により相補的に埋め込みビットを判定する。例えば、一方の検出結果として埋め込みビットが未検出と判定されても、他方の検出結果で有意な埋め込みビット値が判定されれば、未検出の判定結果に誤りがあったものと判断することができる。

[0128]

そこで、本発明では、一方の判定処理を補う形で有意な値が判定された結果を最終的な 判定結果として採用する。このようにすることで、電子透かしの検出結果の信頼性や検出 精度を向上させることができる。

[0129]

なお、上述したGap及び相関検出において検出値のぶれを抑制するため、Gap検出部9及び相関検出部10が検出結果にクリップ処理を施すようにしてもよい。例えば、図17に示すように、Gap検出部9及び相関検出部10は、輝度変化のGap及び相関の検出値が下方にぶれて-1より小さい値となった場合、予め設定しておいたクリップ値-1を検出値として採用する。また、Gap及び相関の検出値が上方にぶれて+1より大きい値となった場合、予め設定しておいたクリップ値+1を検出値として採用する。

[0130]

このように検出値に上下限値を設けて所定範囲内に制限することで、Gap及び相関の検出対象の画像内容により検出結果にぶれが生じてもその影響を低減することができ、埋め込みビットの判定処理を安定して実行することができる。

[0131]

図18は、この実施の形態4による電子透かし検出装置の応用例を示す図である。図示の例では、電子透かし検出装置8をペン型検出器12として構成している。ペン型検出器12のペン先部には、CRTやLCDなどのモニタ画面14に表示される画像を読み取るビデオカメラが装備されており、上述した処理で電子透かしを検出する。検出結果の埋め込みビットは、表示窓13に表示され、検出対象の画像に本発明による電子透かしが埋め込まれていることを確認することができる。

[0132]

この応用例においては、本発明の電子透かしを埋め込み対象画像の一部領域に埋め込んでおく。そして、電子透かしの検出処理において、モニタ画面の上記埋め込み領域の表示部分にペン先部を押し当てて検出対象画像を読み込む。このように構成することで、モニタ画面14に再生された画像を撮影しながら、簡易に電子透かしの検出を実行することができる。

[0133]

以上のように、この実施の形態4によれば、Gap及び相関検出により相補的に埋め込みビットを判定するので、電子透かしの検出結果の信頼性や検出精度を向上させることができる。

[0134]

なお、上記実施の形態4では、Gap検出による埋め込みビットの判定結果と相関検出による埋め込みビットの判定結果とを相補的に判断して最終的な埋め込みビットの決定を行う例を示した。しかし、本発明は、当該構成に限定されるものではない。

[0135]

例えば、相関検出部10を設けることなく、Gap検出部9によるGap検出結果のみから埋め込みビット判定部11が埋め込みビットを判定するように構成してもよい。この

構成で検出精度を維持するには、検出対象の画像における電子透かしの埋め込み周期とその Gap 検出周期との同期を厳密にとる必要がある。しかしながら、相関検出に要する時間が省略されるので、再撮画像の再生中にリアルタイムに電子透かしを検出するように構成することができる。

[0136]

また、Gap検出部 9を設けることなく、相関検出部 10による相関検出結果のみから埋め込みビット判定部 11が埋め込みビットを判定するように構成してもよい。この構成では、相関検出部 10が、上述したように相関値の算出に用いるリファレンス画像データαを求めるにあたり、相関を検出するフレーム(又はフィールド)の近傍のフレーム(又はフィールド)の輝度平均値を使用する。

[0137]

これにより、検出対象画像の画像内容の違いによる影響が低減され、より注目フレームを近似するリファレンス画像で相関値を算出することができ、検出精度を向上させることができる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

[0138]

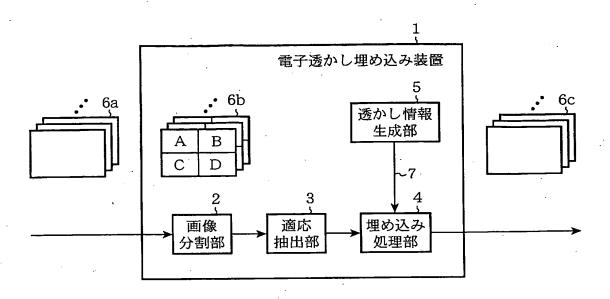
- 【図1】この発明の実施の形態1による電透かし埋め込み装置の構成を示すプロック図である。
- 【図2】入力電子画像を空間的に分割した画像分割領域を示す図である。
- 【図3】実施の形態1による電子透かしパターンの一例とその時間変化を示す図である。
- 【図4】空間的なガードバンドを含む電子透かしパターンと時間方向のガードバンド の具体例を示す図である。
- 【図5】埋め込みビットごとの適応処理とその時間変化を示す図である。
- 【図6】埋め込みビットごとの輝度レベルでの適応処理を示す図である。
- 【図7】実施の形態2の電子透かし埋め込み装置によるフレーム差分の算出方法を説明する図である。
- 【図8】埋め込みビットごとのフレーム差分を用いた適応処理を示す図である。
- 【図9】実施の形態3による電子透かし埋め込み装置のエッジ適応処理を説明する図 である。
- 【図10】埋め込みビットごとのエッジ適応処理を示す図である。
- 【図11】この発明の実施の形態4による電透かし検出装置の構成を示すブロック図である。
- 【図12】電子透かしの埋め込み周期におけるGap検出位置を示す図である。
- 【図13】Gap値と埋め込みビットとの関係を示す図である。
- 【図14】電子透かしの埋め込み位相を示す図である。
- 【図15】相関値と埋め込みビットとの関係を示す図である。
- 【図16】Gap及び相関検出による判定値と埋め込みビットの最終判定値との関係を示す図である。
- 【図17】クリップ処理を説明する図である。
- 【図18】実施の形態4による電子透かし検出装置の応用例を示す図である。

【符号の説明】

[0139]

1 電子透かし埋め込み装置、2 画像分割部、3 適応抽出部、4 埋め込み処理部、5 透かし情報生成部、6 a 入力電子画像、6 b, 6 c 電子画像、7 埋め込みビット、8 電子透かし検出装置、9 Gap検出部、10 相関検出部、11 埋め込みビット判定部、12 ペン型検出器、13 表示窓、14 モニタ画面。

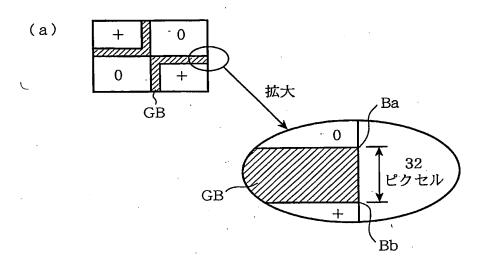
【書類名】図面 【図1】

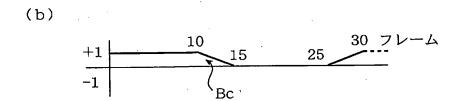


【図2】

領域A	領域B
領域C	領域D

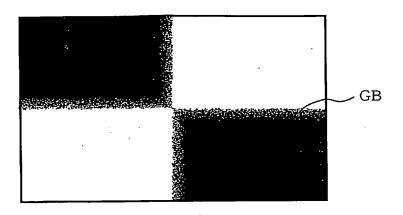
【図3】



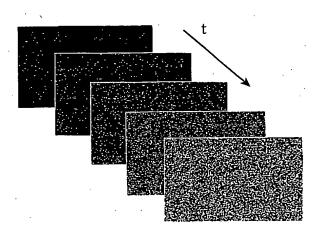


【図4】

(a)



(b)



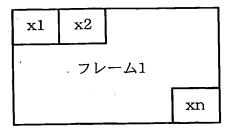
【図5】

埋め込み ビット	埋め込み周期
00	#1 適応A 30.フレーム 15 16 適応B
01	適応B +1 16 -1 15 適応A 30 フレーム
10	#1 適応A 適応A 30 フレーム 7 23 -1 8 22 適応B
11	#1 適応B 8 22 -1 7 23 適応A 適応A 30 フレーム

【図6】

埋め込み	適応A		適応B
ピット	輝度値129以上	輝度值128以下	輝度值180以上
00	+1	Next 50% +1	+1
01	-1	Next 50% -1	-1
10	+1	Next 50% +1	+1
11	-1	Next 50% -1	-1

【図7】

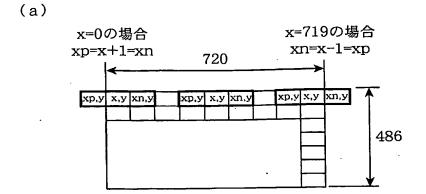


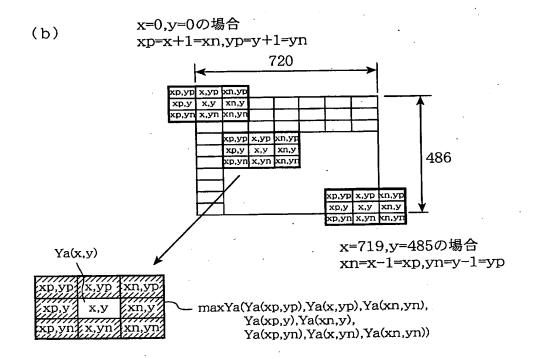
y1	у2		
	フレ	- Д2	
			yn

【図8】

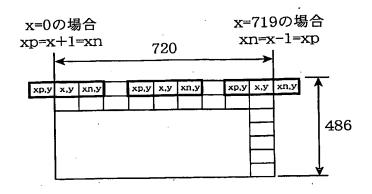
		適応A			適応B
埋め込み ビット	フレーム 差分	輝度値 128 以上	輝度値 128未満 Next 50%	輝度値 128未満 残り	輝度値 180 以上
	≦2	+1	なし	なし	+1
00	3≦ 及び ≦7	+1	+1	なし	+1
	≧8	+1	+1	+1	+1
	≦2	-1	なし	なし	-1
01	3≦ 及び ≦7	-1	-1	なし	-1
	≧8	-1	-1	-1	-1

【図9】



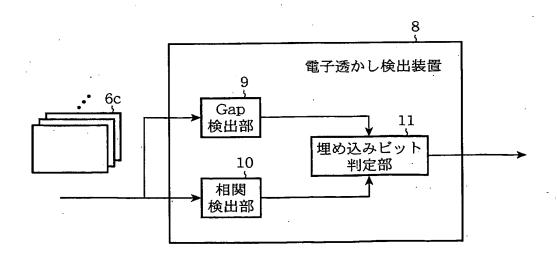


(c)

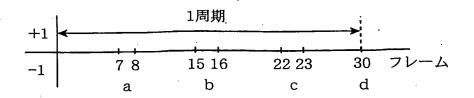


	適	· 適応B	
エッジ度(Yc)	輝度128未満 輝度128以上		輝度180以上
10未満	なし	なし	なし
10以上	なし	1	1 ,

【図11】



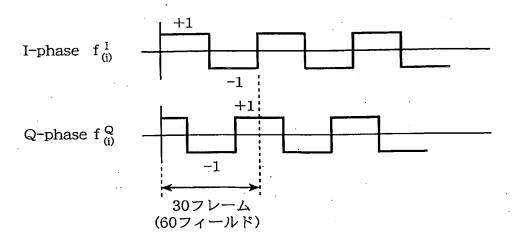
【図12】



【図13】

埋め込みビット	Gap _{ac}	Gap _{bd}
未検出	Z <0.1 またに	t Z ×2≥ X
00	Z	X
01	Z	-X
10	X	Z
11	-X	Z

【図14】



出証特2005-3026138

[図15]

埋め込みビット	C(I)		C(Q)
未検出	Z <0.1	または	$ Z \times 2 \ge X $
00	X		Z
01	-X		Z
10	Z		Χ.
11	Z		-X

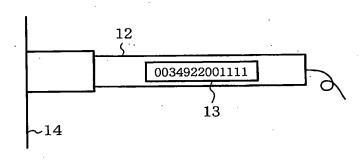
【図16】

		Gap検出				
		00	01	10	11	未検出
	00	. 00	未検出	未検出	未検出	00
想	01	未検出	01	未検出	未検出	01
相関検出	10	未検出	未検出	10	未検出	10
出	11	未検出	未検出	未検出	11	11
	未検出	00	01	10	11	未検出

【図17】

フレーム毎のGap及び相関	クリップ値
<-1	-1
>+1	+1

【図18】



【書類名】要約書

【要約】

【課題】 再撮画像に対応可能な電子透かしを画質を劣化させることがなく埋め込むことができ、この電子透かしを高精度に検出することができる電子透かし埋め込み方法、その検出方法、装置及びこれをコンピュータに実現させるプログラムを提供する。

【解決手段】 電子透かし埋め込み対象の電子画像を複数の画像領域に空間的に分割し、 画素値の変化が視認されにくい特性を有する画素を適応画素として上記画像領域ごとに抽 出して、電子透かしの埋め込みビット値に応じて上記画像領域間及び時間方向で上記適応 画素の画素値を変化させると共に、上記画像領域間の境界及び/又は時間方向で画素値変 化の遷移が緩慢になるように段階的に変化させることにより電子透かし埋め込み画像を生 成する。

【選択図】

図 1

特願2004-040331

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VERIFICATION OF TRANSLATION

Japanese Patent Application No. 2004-040331 filed on February 17, 2004

I, Hideaki TAZAWA, a Japanese citizen of 1652-50, Miyanogi-cho, Inage-ku, Chiba-shi, Chiba, Japan

am the translator of the documents attached and I state that the following is a true translation to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature of translator Hideaki TAZAWA

Dated:______July 7, 2006

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[Reference Number]

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H04N 1/387

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[Information on the fees]

[Register Number of Deposit in Advance]

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[Amount of Deposit]

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[List of the Attached Documents]

[Name of the Document] Drawings				
[Name of the Document] Specification 1 [Name of the Document] Drawings 1 [Name of the Document] Abstract 1			ent Claims 1	
[Name of the Document] Drawings 1 [Name of the Document] Abstract 1	<u>.</u>		1	
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[NAME OF THE DOCUMENT] SCOPE OF THE PATENT CLAIMS [Claim 1]

An electronic watermark embedding method comprising: a dividing processing step of dividing an electronic image into which an electronic watermark is to be embedded into a plurality of image regions spatially;

an adaptive extraction step of extracting, as adaptive pixels, pixels each having a property of being difficult to visually recognize a variation in a pixel value from each of said plurality of image regions; and

an embedding step of producing a variation between the pixel values of said adaptive pixels in one of said plurality of image regions and those of said adaptive pixels in an adjacent one of said plurality of image regions, and varying the pixel values of said adaptive pixels of said plurality of image regions in a time direction, according to a value of an embedded bit set of an electronic watermark, and of generating an electronic-watermark-embedded image by making the variation in the pixel values of said adaptive pixels vary step by step at a boundary between the two of said plurality of image regions and/or in the time direction so that the variation makes a slow transition.

[Claim 2]

The electronic watermark embedding method according to Claim 1, characterized in that in the embedding step, the embedded bit set is so expressed as to vary the variation between the two image regions and/or the variation in those of said adaptive pixels in the time direction so that the pixel values of said adaptive pixels in the one of said plurality of image regions have a phase polarity different from those of said adaptive pixels in the adjacent one of said plurality of image regions.

[Claim 3]

The electronic watermark embedding method according to Claim 1, characterized in that in the adaptive extraction step, pixels each having a brightness level which is difficult to recognize visually even if a brightness variation associated with the embedding of the electronic watermark is added thereto is extracted as the adaptive pixels.

[Claim 4]

The electronic watermark embedding method according to Claim 1, characterized in that in the adaptive extraction step, pixels each having a large pixel value variation in the time direction are extracted, as the adaptive pixels, on the basis of a pixel value difference in the time direction of the electronic image into which the electronic watermark is to be embedded.

[Claim 5]

The electronic watermark embedding method according to Claim 1, characterized in that in the adaptive extraction step, the adaptive pixels are extracted from an edge portion of the electronic image into which the electronic watermark is to be embedded.
[Claim 6]

The electronic watermark embedding method according to Claim 1, characterized in that in the embedding step, the embedding processing is carried out in synchronization with a scene change which occurs in the electronic image into which the electronic watermark is to be embedded.

[Claim 7]

An electronic watermark detecting method of detecting an embedded bit set of an electronic watermark to be detected from an electronic image into which the electronic watermark is embedded by using a method of dividing said electronic image into which the electronic watermark is to be embedded into a plurality of image regions spatially, producing a variation between pixel values in one of said plurality of image regions and those in an adjacent one of said plurality of image regions, and varying the pixel values of said adaptive pixels of said plurality of image regions in a time direction according to a value of the embedded bit set, characterized in that said electronic watermark detecting method comprises:

a Gap detection step of detecting, as a Gap value, a pixel value difference corresponding to a pixel value variation in the time direction which is caused by the embedding of the electronic watermark for each of said plurality of image regions of said electronic image from which the electronic watermark is to be detected;

a correlation detection step of detecting a correlation value showing a correlation between a pattern of the pixel value variation in the time direction which is produced between the pixel values in the one of said plurality of image regions and those in the adjacent one of said plurality of image regions, which is caused by the electronic watermark to be embedded in said electronic image from which the electronic watermark is to be detected, and a pattern of the pixel value variation in the time direction of said electronic image from

which the electronic watermark is to be detected; and

an embedded bit judgment step of judging said embedded bit set from results of the detection of said Gap value and the detection of said correlation value for each of said plurality of image regions, and judging results of the judgment complementarily so as to determine the embedded bit set finally.
[Claim 8]

The electronic watermark embedding method according to Claim 7, characterized in that in the Gap detection step, a difference between averages of pixel values of two image data located in a vicinity of noted image data in the time direction is calculated as the Gap value, the two image data being included in plural image data in the time direction which constitute the electronic image from which the electronic watermark is to be detected.

[Claim 9]

The electronic watermark embedding method according to Claim 7, characterized in that in the correlation detection step, averages of pixel values of image data located in a vicinity of noted image data in the time direction are sequentially calculated as reference images, the image data being included in plural image data in the time direction which constitute the electronic image from which the electronic watermark is to be detected, and a correlation value showing a correlation between a pattern of variations in the pixel values of these reference image and a pattern of variations in pixel values of the electronic watermark to be embedded into the electronic image from which the electronic watermark is to be detected is calculated. [Claim 10]

The electronic watermark embedding method according to Claim 7, characterized in that in each of the Gap detection step and the correlation detection step, a clip process of restricting the detected value so that it falls within a range defined by upper and lower limits is carried out.

[Claim 11]

The electronic watermark embedding method according to Claim 7, characterized in that in each of the Gap detection step and the correlation detection step, the detection process is carried out in synchronization with a scene change which occurs in the electronic image from which the electronic watermark is to be detected. [Claim 12]

The electronic watermark embedding method according to Claim 7,

characterized in that in each of the Gap detection step and the correlation detection step, any image data which is included in the plural image data which constitute the electronic image from which the electronic watermark is to be detected and which has disorder which originates from the scene change is not used for the detection process. [Claim 13]

An electronic watermark embedding apparatus comprising: a dividing processing unit for dividing an electronic image into which an electronic watermark is to be embedded into a plurality of image regions spatially;

an adaptive extraction unit for extracting, as adaptive pixels, pixels each having a property of being difficult to visually recognize a variation in a pixel value from each of said plurality of image regions;

a watermark information generating unit for generating electronic watermark information which produces a variation between the pixel values of said adaptive pixels in one of said plurality of image regions and those of said adaptive pixels in an adjacent one of said plurality of image regions, and which varies the pixel values of said adaptive pixels of said plurality of image regions in a time direction, according to a value of an embedded bit set of an electronic watermark; and

an embedding processing unit for varying the pixel values of said electronic image on the basis of said electronic watermark information, and for generating an electronic-watermark-embedded image by making the variation in the pixel values of said adaptive pixels vary step by step at a boundary between the two of said plurality of image regions and/or in the time direction so that the variation makes a slow transition.

[Claim 14]

An electronic watermark detecting apparatus for detecting an embedded bit set of an electronic watermark to be detected from an electronic image into which the electronic watermark is embedded by using a method of dividing said electronic image into which the electronic watermark is to be embedded into a plurality of image regions spatially, producing a variation between pixel values in one of said plurality of image regions and those in an adjacent one of said plurality of image regions, and varying the pixel values of said adaptive pixels of said plurality of image regions in a time direction according to a value of the embedded bit set, characterized in that said electronic watermark detecting apparatus comprises:

a Gap detecting unit for detecting, as a Gap value, a pixel value difference corresponding to a pixel value variation in the time direction which is caused by the electronic watermark embedding for each of said plurality of image regions of said electronic image from which the electronic watermark is to be detected;

a correlation detecting unit for detecting a correlation value showing a correlation between a pattern of the pixel value variation in the time direction which is produced between the pixel values in the one of said plurality of image regions and those in the adjacent one of said plurality of image regions, which is caused by the electronic watermark to be embedded in said electronic image from which the electronic watermark is to be detected, and a pattern of the pixel value variation in the time direction of said electronic image from which the electronic watermark is to be detected; and

an embedded bit determining unit for determining said embedded bit set from results of the detection of said Gap value and the detection of said correlation value for each of said plurality of image regions, and for judging results of the determination complementarily so as to determine the embedded bit set finally.

[Claim 15]

The electronic watermark embedding apparatus according to Claim 14, characterized in that the Gap detecting unit calculates, as the Gap value, a difference between averages of pixel values of two image data located in a vicinity of noted image data in the time direction, the two image data being included in plural image data in the time direction which constitute the electronic image from which the electronic watermark is to be detected.

The electronic watermark embedding apparatus according to Claim 14, characterized in that the correlation detecting unit sequentially calculates, as reference images, averages of pixel values of image data located in a vicinity of noted image data in the time direction, the image data being included in plural image data in the time direction which constitute the electronic image from which the electronic watermark is to be detected, and also calculates a correlation value showing a correlation between a pattern of variations in the pixel values of these reference image and a pattern of variations in pixel values of the electronic watermark to be embedded into the electronic image from which the electronic watermark is to be detected. [Claim 17]

A program which causes a computer to function as an electronic watermark embedding apparatus comprising:

a dividing processing unit for dividing an electronic image into which an electronic watermark is to be embedded into a plurality of image regions spatially; an adaptive extraction unit for extracting, as adaptive pixels, pixels each having a property of being difficult to visually recognize a variation in a pixel value from each of said plurality of image regions;

a watermark information generating unit for generating electronic watermark information which produces a variation between the pixel values of said adaptive pixels in one of said plurality of image regions and those of said adaptive pixels in an adjacent one of said plurality of image regions, and which varies the pixel values of said adaptive pixels of said plurality of image regions in a time direction, according to a value of an embedded bit set of an electronic watermark; and

an embedding processing unit for varying the pixel values of said electronic image on the basis of said electronic watermark information, and for generating an electronic-watermark-embedded image by making the variation in the pixel values of said adaptive pixels vary step by step at a boundary between the two of said plurality of image regions and/or in the time direction so that the variation makes a slow transition.

[Claim 18]

A program which causes a computer to function as an electronic watermark detecting apparatus for detecting an embedded bit set of an electronic watermark to be detected from an electronic image into which the electronic watermark is embedded by using a method of dividing said electronic image into which the electronic watermark is to be embedded into a plurality of image regions spatially, producing a variation between pixel values in one of said plurality of image regions and those in an adjacent one of said plurality of image regions, and varying the pixel values of said adaptive pixels of said plurality of image regions in a time direction according to a value of the embedded bit set, wherein said program causes said computer to function as

a Gap detecting unit for detecting, as a Gap value, a pixel value difference corresponding to a pixel value variation in the time direction which is caused by the electronic watermark embedding for each of said plurality of image regions of said electronic image from which the electronic watermark is to be detected;

a correlation detecting unit for detecting a correlation value

showing a correlation between a pattern of the pixel value variation in the time direction which is produced between the pixel values in the one of said plurality of image regions and those in the adjacent one of said plurality of image regions, which is caused by the electronic watermark to be embedded in said electronic image from which the electronic watermark is to be detected, and a pattern of the pixel value variation in the time direction of said electronic image from which the electronic watermark is to be detected; and

an embedded bit determining unit for determining said embedded bit set from results of the detection of said Gap value and the detection of said correlation value for each of said plurality of image regions, and for judging results of the determination complementarily so as to determine the embedded bit set finally.

[Claim 19]

The program according to Claim 18, characterized in that the Gap detecting unit calculates, as the Gap value, a difference between averages of pixel values of two image data located in a vicinity of noted image data in the time direction, the two image data being included in plural image data in the time direction which constitute the electronic image from which the electronic watermark is to be detected.

[Claim 20]

The program according to Claim 18, characterized in that the correlation detecting unit sequentially calculates, as reference images, averages of pixel values of image data located in a vicinity of noted image data in the time direction, the image data being included in plural image data in the time direction which constitute the electronic image from which the electronic watermark is to be detected, and also calculates a correlation value showing a correlation between a pattern of variations in the pixel values of these reference image and a pattern of variations in pixel values of the electronic watermark to be embedded into the electronic image from which the electronic watermark is to be detected.

[NAME OF THE DOCUMENT] SPECIFICATION
[TITLE OF THE INVENTION] ELECTRONIC WATERMARK EMBEDDING METHOD,
ELECTRONIC WATERMARK DETECTING METHOD, APPARATUS, AND PROGRAM

[Technical Field of the Invention] [0001]

The present invention relates to an electronic watermark embedding method of and an electronic watermark detecting method of being able to detect an electronic watermark from a recaptured image acquired by recapturing an image displayed on a screen, such as a display's screen, and an apparatus and a program which use these methods. Background of the Invention

[Prior Art]
[0002]

Improvements in the performance of television cameras in recent years and reduction in the costs of television cameras make it easy to recapture an image or video image displayed on a screen, such as a display's screen, with a sufficient image quality. However, such technical improvements cause unauthorized use of work, such as a recaptured image or video image. For example, there have been reported cases where a video image screened in a movie theater was recaptured directly with a digital camera, and was copied to a medium, such as a DVD (Digital Versatile Disk), and the medium was on sale illegally.

[0003]

Nonpatent reference 1 discloses an electronic watermark technology which is intended for prevention of unauthorized use of such a recaptured image. According to this prior art technology, brightness variations with respect to a time direction (e.g., a direction of frames or fields) are provided, as an electronic watermark, to a moving image into which the electronic watermark is to be embedded.

[0004]

By thus embedding copyright information, as an electronic watermark, into the target image, the user can extract the above-mentioned copyright information even from a recaptured image which is illegally copied from the target image, and can assert the copyright. This translates into prevention of illegal copy of the target image using image recapturing.

[0005]

[Nonpatent reference 1] J. Haitsma and T. Kalker, "A watermarking scheme for digital cinema", ICIP'01 - IEEE, pp.487-489 [DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION]

[PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED BY THE INVENTION]

[0006]

In accordance with the prior art electronic watermark technology for electronically watermarking recaptured images which is disclosed by nonpatent reference 1, an electronic watermark which is effective even for recaptured images is embedded into a moving image by changing the brightness of the moving image with respect to a time direction (e.g., a direction of frames or fields). A problem with the prior art electronic watermark technology is, however, that depending on the target moving image into which the electronic watermark is embedded, a difference in the brightness between frame images, which is caused by the brightness variations with respect to the time direction which are provided for the target moving image, can be viewed as a light or dark portion while the moving image is played back.

[0007]

Furthermore, as a method of increasing the amount of embedding of an electronic watermark, there can be provided a method of dividing each frame image (or each field image) of the target moving image into a plurality of regions spatially, and producing a variation in the pixel values in each of the plurality of divided regions of each frame image according to an embedded bit. A problem with the related art method is, however, that the image quality of the target moving image degrades depending upon the target moving image into which the electronic watermark is to be embedded.

[8000]

For example, when each frame image or the like is spatially divided into a plurality of regions and brightness modulation is performed on each of the plurality of divided regions, a difference in the brightness occurs among the plurality of divided regions of each frame image due to the brightness modulation and a boundary line between any two of the plurality of divided regions can be viewed while the moving image is played back, depending upon the target moving image into which the electronic watermark is to be embedded.

[0009]

The present invention is made in order to solve the above-mentioned problems, and it is therefore an object of the present invention to provide an electronic watermark embedding method of being able to embed an electronic watermark which is effective for recaptured images into a target image without degrading the image quality of the target image, and an electronic watermark detecting method of being able to detect

the electronic watermark with a high degree of precision. [0010]

It is a further object of the present invention to provide an electronic watermark embedding apparatus which uses the above-mentioned electronic watermark embedding method, an electronic watermark detecting apparatus which uses the above-mentioned electronic watermark detecting method, a program which makes a computer function as the electronic watermark embedding apparatus, and a program which makes a computer function as the electronic watermark detecting apparatus.

[MEANS FOR SOLVING THE PROBLEM]

[0011]

In accordance with an aspect of the present invention, there is provided an electronic watermark embedding method including: a dividing processing step of dividing an electronic image into which an electronic watermark is to be embedded into a plurality of image regions spatially; an adaptive extraction step of extracting, as adaptive pixels, pixels each having a property of being difficult to visually recognize a variation in a pixel value from each of the plurality of image regions; and an embedding step of producing a variation between the pixel values of the adaptive pixels in one of the plurality of image regions and those of the adaptive pixels in an adjacent one of the plurality of image regions, and varying the pixel values of the adaptive pixels of the plurality of image regions in a time direction, according to a value of an embedded bit set of an electronic watermark, and of generating an electronic-watermark-embedded image by making the variation in the pixel values of the adaptive pixels vary step by step at a boundary between the two of the plurality of image regions and/or in the time direction so that the variation makes a slow transition.

[0012]

In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, there is provided an electronic watermark detecting method including: a Gap detection step of detecting, as a Gap value, a pixel value difference corresponding to a pixel value variation in a time direction which is caused by the embedding of an electronic watermark for each of a plurality of image regions of an electronic image from which the electronic watermark is to be detected; a correlation detection step of detecting a correlation value showing a correlation between a pattern of a pixel value variation in the time direction which is

produced between the pixel values in one of the plurality of image regions and those in an adjacent one of the plurality of image regions, which is caused by the electronic watermark to be embedded in the electronic image from which the electronic watermark is to be detected, and a pattern of the pixel value variation in the time direction of the electronic image from which the electronic watermark is to be detected; and an embedded bit judgment step of judging the embedded bit set from results of the detection of the Gap value and the detection of the correlation value for each of the plurality of image regions, and judging results of the judgment complementarily so as to determine the embedded bit set finally.

[EFFECT OF THE INVENTION]

[0013]

According to the present invention, since an electronic image into which an electronic watermark is to be embedded is divided into a plurality of image regions spatially; as adaptive pixels, pixels each having a property of being difficult to visually recognize a variation in a pixel value are extracted from each of the plurality of image regions; and a variation between the pixel values of the adaptive pixels in one of the plurality of image regions and those of the adaptive pixels in an adjacent one of the plurality of image regions, and varying the pixel values of the adaptive pixels of the plurality of image regions in a time direction is varied according to a value of an embedded bit set of an electronic watermark, and an

electronic-watermark-embedded image is produced by making the variation in the pixel values of the adaptive pixels vary step by step at a boundary between the two of the plurality of image regions and/or in the time direction so that the variation makes a slow transition, the present invention offers an advantage of being able to maintain the resistance of the electronic watermark to recapturing of the target image to which the electronic watermark is embedded, and also to reduce the visual disturbance due to the embedding of the electronic watermark remarkably.

[0014]

According to the present invention, since as a Gap value, a pixel value difference corresponding to a pixel value variation in a time direction which is caused by the embedding of an electronic watermark for each of a plurality of image regions of an electronic image from which the electronic watermark is to be detected is detected; a correlation value showing a correlation between a pattern of a pixel

value variation in the time direction which is produced between the pixel values in one of the plurality of image regions and those in an adjacent one of the plurality of image regions, which is caused by the electronic watermark to be embedded in the electronic image from which the electronic watermark is to be detected, and a pattern of the pixel value variation in the time direction of the electronic image from which the electronic watermark is to be detected is detected; and the embedded bit set from results of the detection of the Gap value and the detection of the correlation value for each of the plurality of image regions is judged with judging results of the judgment complementarily so as to determine the embedded bit set finally, the present invention offers an advantage of being able to improve the reliability of the detection result of the electronic watermark, and the accuracy of the detection of the electronic watermark.

[0015]

Embodiment 1.

Fig. 1 is a block diagram showing the structure of an electronic watermark embedding apparatus in accordance with embodiment 1 of the present invention. The electronic watermark embedding apparatus 1 is provided with an image dividing unit 2, an adaptive extraction unit 3, an embedding processing unit 4, and a watermark information generating unit 5. The electronic watermark embedding apparatus 1 can be implemented via execution of an electronic watermark embedding program in accordance with the present invention by using, for example, a general-purpose computer.

[0016]

In other words, the electronic watermark embedding apparatus 1 can carry out its characteristic data processing by making the computer execute the electronic watermark embedding program and function as the above-mentioned components 2 to 5. In the following explanation, since those skilled in the art can easily recognize the structure and fundamental functions of the computer which embodies the electronic watermark embedding apparatus 1 on the basis of the common general technical knowledge about the field of the present invention, and the structure and fundamental functions of the computer are not directly in connection with the essence of the present invention, the detailed explanation of them will be omitted hereafter.

[0017]

The image dividing unit 2 spatially divides each frame of an electronic image 6a inputted thereto (in Fig. 1, a moving image which

consists of a plurality of frames, and which is referred to as an input electronic image hereafter) into a plurality of regions so as to generate an electronic image 6b. Hereafter, as shown in Fig. 2, a case where the image dividing unit 2 divides each frame image of the input electronic image 6a into four regions will be explained as an example. In Fig. 2, in order to distinguish the divided four regions from one another, they are designated by reference characters A, B, C and D, respectively.

[0018]

As will be mentioned later, when dividing each frame image of the input electronic image 6a into the four regions, the image dividing unit 2 sets up a guard band (Guard Band) as the boundary of any two of the four divided regions. That is, each frame image of the electronic image 6b is divided into the four regions via guard bands.

[0019]

The adaptive extraction unit 3 sets up adaptation requirements for specifying pixels whose image quality is not degraded even if their pixel values are made to vary by a predetermined amplitude (i.e., a certain variation), and extracts, as electronic watermark embedding target pixels (referred to as adaptive pixels from here on), pixels which satisfy the adaptation requirements for each of the four divided regions of each frame of the electronic image 6b furnished from the image dividing unit 2.

[0020]

The embedding processing unit 4 varies the pixel value of each adaptive pixel of the electronic image 6b, which is extracted by the adaptive extraction unit 3, spatially and in a time direction according to electronic watermark information 7 from the watermark information generating unit 5 so as to generate and output an electronic-watermark-embedded electronic image 6c.

[0021]

In other words, the embedding processing unit performs electronic watermark embedding by specifying a spatial variation to be produced in the pixel values of the adaptive pixels in each of the four divided regions of each frame image of the electronic image 6b and a variation in the time direction (i.e., the direction of frames) to be produced in the spatial variation according to the value of an electronic watermark embedded bit set.

[0022]

In the following explanation, a case where the embedding

processing unit 4 spatially varies the brightness values of the adaptive pixels in each of the four divided regions of each frame image according to the electronic watermark information 7, and also varies them in the time direction (i.e., the direction of frame) will be mentioned as an example, and it is assumed that the adaptive extraction unit 3 sets up adaptation requirements for the brightness levels.

[0023]

The watermark information generating unit 5 generates the electronic watermark information 7 according to the embedded bit set which constitutes the electronic watermark, and outputs the electronic watermark information to the embedding processing unit 4. The electronic watermark information 7 is the information for specifying a spatial electronic watermark pattern in which the pixel values of the adaptive pixels in each of the four divided regions of each frame image of the electronic image 6b are varied, and a pattern in which the variation is varied in the time direction (i.e., the direction of frames) according to the value of the embedded bit set.

[0024]

For example, the embedding processing unit 4 sets up the electronic watermark information 7 which causes both spatially embedding of 2-bit information into two diagonal ones of the four divided regions of each frame of the electronic image 6b, and embedding of 2-bit information which provides brightness variations having different phases in the time direction (for example, the brightness variations are about 90 degrees out of phase with each other) to the two diagonal regions, respectively, into the two diagonal regions. By doing in this way, a total of 4-bit electronic watermark which provides a spatial brightness variation and a brightness variation in the time direction to each of the two diagonal regions can be embedded into the electronic image per one frame image.

[0025]

The embedding processing unit 4 performs the embedding processing so that the spatial brightness values of the adaptive pixels vary slightly in the vicinity of each guard band set up by the image dividing unit 2, and so that the brightness values of the adaptive pixels in the vicinity of the guard band of the same divided region vary slowly in the time direction (i.e., the direction of frames).

[0026]

Fig. 3 is a diagram showing an example of the electronic watermark pattern in accordance with embodiment 1, and a temporal variation

produced in the brightness values of the adaptive pixels in each of the two diagonal regions. Fig. 3(a) shows an example of the electronic watermark pattern containing spatial guard bands, and Fig. 3(b) shows a temporal variation in the pattern shown in Fig. 3 (a) containing time-directional guard bands. In the example of Fig. 3(a), the brightness value of any pixel in the regions B and C shown in Fig. 2 (i.e., portions attached 0 in the figure) is not varied, and the brightness values of all pixels in the regions A and D (i.e., portions attached sign+ in the figure) are varied by \pm 1.

[0027]

As shown in Fig. 3(a), each spatial guard band GB has a width of 32 pixels, for example. This width has only to be of order which makes it difficult to visually recognize the corresponding boundary of the two regions in which the brightness values of the pixels are varied by different values, respectively. The width is determined properly according to the image characteristics of the target image into which the electronic watermark in accordance with the present invention is to be embedded. In addition, the boundary line on the side of the region B of the guard band GB between the regions B and D is called Ba, and the boundary line on the side of the region D of the guard band GB is called Bb.

[0028]

For example, the probability of varying the brightness value of a pixel on the boundary line Ba on the side of the region B by +1 is set to 1/33, while the probability of varying the brightness value of a pixel, outside the boundary line, in the guard band by +1 is gradually raised from 1/33 as the location of the pixel gets closer to the region D within the guard band GB. Then, the probability of varying the brightness value of a pixel on the boundary line Bb on the side of the region D by +1 is set to 32/33. By setting the probability of varying the brightness value of each pixel within each guard band in this way, the input electronic image has, as the electronic watermark, guard bands each having a brightness value variation pattern in which variations in the brightness values of pixels in the same line thereof gradually vary from the brightness variation set to one of the corresponding two regions to the brightness variation set to the other one of the corresponding two regions with distance from the one of the corresponding two regions.

[0029]

Furthermore, in order to vary the brightness value of each pixel

in the time direction according to the bit value which constitutes the electronic watermark, for example, the brightness value of each pixel in each of the regions A and D is varied by +1 as long as each pixel is located in any of the first through tenth frames which are numbered from the frame in which the brightness value of each pixel starts being varied, and is varied by a variation which is gradually reduced to 0 as the frame in which each pixel is located changes from the tenth frame to the fifteenth frame, as shown in Fig. 3(b).

[0030]

In this case, within a time period Bc shown in the figure during which the variation in the brightness value is reduced from +1 to 0, the number of pixels whose brightness value is not varied is increased at a rate of 1/6 every frame so that the number of pixels whose brightness value is varied by +1 is reduced and the number of pixels whose brightness value is not varied is increased by the reduction in the number of pixels whose brightness value is varied by +1.

[0031]

Thus, the electronic watermark embedding apparatus 1 in accordance with the present invention makes the brightness values of the pixels in a specific region (i.e., the brightness values of the pixels in a time-directional guard band) vary slowly even in the time direction. Therefore, the present embodiment can prevent the image quality of a recaptured image from degrading due to the embedding of an electronic watermark to the recaptured image.

[0032]

Fig. 4 is a diagram showing an electronic watermark embedding base containing the spatial guard bands which are embedded into the input electronic image by using the method shown in Fig. 3, and an example of the time-directional guard band. In order to make variations in the brightness values of the pixels in each region easy to understand, every pixel whose brightness value is varied by +1 is shown by a black point and every pixel whose brightness value is not varied is shown by a white point.

[0033]

As shown in Fig. 4(a), the spatial variations in the brightness values of all the pixels of the electronic image containing the guard bands GB cause the borderlines between the regions A and D and the regions B and C to get blurred. Furthermore, the time-directional guard band causes, as an electronic watermark, time-varying variations in the brightness values of all the pixels of the electronic image

in which the brightness value of each pixel is gradually varied from a previously-set value to a lately-set value with time, as shown in the Fig. 4(b), so that intermediate states are provided.

[0034]

Fig. 5 is a diagram showing adaptation processing carried out for each embedded bit set, and a temporal variation in each embedded bit set. In the shown example, the adaptive extraction unit 3 extracts adaptive pixels A and B which satisfy adaptation requirements for each of the divided regions of the electronic image 6b. The embedding processing unit 4 varies the brightness values of the adaptive pixels A and B which are extracted by the adaptive extraction unit 3 for each of the divided regions of the electronic image 6b at embedding intervals as shown in the figure (e.g., at intervals of 30 frames) according to the electronic watermark information 7 from the watermark information generating unit 5.

[0035]

For example, when the embedded bit set of the electronic watermark is "00", the embedding processing unit varies the brightness value of each adaptive pixel A by +1 as long as each adaptive pixel A is located in any of the 1st through 15th frames which are numbered from the frame in which the embedding processing is started, and varies the brightness value of each adaptive pixel B by -1 as long as each adaptive pixel B is located in any of the 16th through 30th frames according to the electronic watermark information 7. In contrast, when the embedded bit set is "01", the embedding processing unit performs processing so as to produce variations in the brightness values of the adaptive pixels which are out of phase with the above-mentioned variations produced in the brightness values of the adaptive pixels.

[0036]

In order to produce variations in the brightness values of the adaptive pixels in each of the two diagonal ones of the four divided regions as shown in Fig. 2 so that the variations produced in the brightness values of the adaptive pixels in one of the two diagonal regions are out of phase with the variations produced in the brightness values of the adaptive pixels in the other one of the two diagonal regions, the following processing is carried out.

First, when the embedded bit set to be set to each of the regions A and D shown in Fig. 2 is "00", the brightness values of the adaptive pixels A and B extracted from the region A of Fig. 2 are made to vary

at intervals corresponding to the embedded bit set 00 shown in Fig. 5, and the brightness values of the adaptive pixels A and B extracted from the region D of Fig. 2 are made to vary at intervals corresponding to an embedded bit set 01 shown in Fig. 5.

[0037]

When the embedded bit set to be set to each of the regions A and D shown in Fig. 2 is "01", the brightness values of the adaptive pixels A and B extracted from the region A are made to vary at intervals corresponding to the embedded bit set 01 shown in Fig. 5, and the brightness values of the adaptive pixels A and B extracted from the region D are made to vary at intervals corresponding to the embedded bit set 00 shown in Fig. 5, in contrast to the above-mentioned case.

[0038]

In addition, when the embedded bit set to be set to each of the regions A and D shown in Fig. 2 is "10", the brightness values of the adaptive pixels A and B extracted from the region A are made to vary at intervals corresponding to the embedded bit set 10 shown in Fig. 5, and the brightness values of the adaptive pixels A and B extracted from the region D are made to vary at intervals corresponding to an embedded bit set 11 shown in Fig. 5.

[0039]

Furthermore, when the embedded bit set to be set to each of the regions A and D shown in Fig. 2 is "11", the brightness values of the adaptive pixels A and B extracted from the region A are made to vary at intervals corresponding to the embedded bit set 11 shown in Fig. 5, and the brightness values of the adaptive pixels A and B extracted from the region D are made to vary at intervals corresponding to the embedded bit set 10 shown in Fig. 5. These processings are also carried out for the regions B and C shown in Fig. 2 in the same way.

[0040]

In order to produce variations in the brightness values of the adaptive pixels in each of the two diagonal ones of the four divided regions as shown in Fig. 2 so that a variation produced in the brightness values of the adaptive pixels in one of the two diagonal regions is in phase with a variation produced in the brightness values of the adaptive pixels in the other one of the two diagonal regions, when the embedded bit set to be set to each of the regions A and D shown in Fig. 2 is "00", a process of producing brightness variations is carried out for each of the regions A and D of Fig. 2 at intervals corresponding to the embedded bit set 00 in Fig. 5. Also when the

embedded bit set is "01", "10", or "11", the process of producing brightness variations is also carried out in the same way.

[0041]

Next, the operation will be explained.

An input electronic image 6a which is the target into which an electronic watermark is to be embedded is inputted to the image dividing unit 2 disposed in the electronic watermark embedding apparatus 1. The image dividing unit 2 divides the input electronic image 6a into a plurality of regions spatially on a frame-by-frame basis so as to generate an electronic image 6b. As mentioned above, the plurality of divided regions of each frame image of the electronic image 6b are separated by guard bands GB as shown in Figs. 3 and 4 which serve as boundaries of the plurality of divided regions.

[0042]

The adaptive extraction unit 3 accepts the electronic image 6b from the image dividing unit 2, and extracts adaptive pixels A and B for each of the plurality of divided regions of each frame image on the basis of adaptation requirements about the brightness levels of pixels as shown in, for example, Fig. 6.

[0043]

Fig. 6 is a diagram showing adaptation processing with a certain brightness level being set to each embedded bit set, and, in this figure, intervals for embedding corresponding to each embedded bit set are the same as those shown in Fig. 5. As shown in the figure, pixels having a brightness value of 180 or more are extracted as adaptive pixels B. Pixels having a brightness value of 129 or more and pixels Next50% having a brightness value of 128 or less are extracted as adaptive pixels A. Pixels Next50% having a brightness value of 128 or less are pixels which are the higher-ranked half of all pixels having a brightness value of 128 or less.

[0044]

As an alternative, only when the input electronic image does not have a sufficient number of pixels having a brightness value of 129 or more, and a sufficient amount of embedding for detection of the electronic watermark is not provided, pixels Next50% having a brightness value of 128 or less can be extracted as adaptive pixels A.

[0045]

From the viewpoint of the characteristics of human being's visual sense, the lower brightness the image has and hence the darker the

image is, the more easily variations in the brightness value can be recognized visually. Therefore, the reference brightness value of 128 which is used for extracting the above-mentioned adaptive pixels is determined, as a minimum brightness value at which variations in the brightness of the image cannot be recognized visually, on the basis of examination experiments in consideration of the Weber-Fechner law etc.

[0046]

The adaptive extraction unit 3 extracts the adaptive pixels A and B which satisfy the adaptation requirements about the above-mentioned brightness level for each of the plurality of divided regions of the electronic image 6b, and outputs information which specifies these pixels (e.g., the position coordinates of each of the adaptive pixels on the image) to the embedding processing unit 4.

[0047]

The embedding processing unit 4 performs the process of producing a brightness variation in each of the adaptive pixels A and B, which are extracted for each of the plurality of divided regions of the electronic image 6b according to the information from the adaptive extraction unit 3, according to the electronic watermark information 7 from the watermark information generating unit 5 at the embedding intervals shown in Fig. 5.

[0048]

For example, when the embedded bit set acquired from the watermark information generating unit 5 is "00", the embedding processing unit 4 varies the brightness value of each adaptive pixel A by +1 as long as each adaptive pixel A is located in any of the 1st through 15th frames which are numbered from the frame in which the embedding processing is started, and varies the brightness value of each adaptive pixel B by -1 as long as each adaptive pixel B is located in any of the 16th through 30th frames, as mentioned above with reference to Fig. 5.

[0049]

In Fig. 5, for the sake of simplicity, the time period Bc (i.e., the time-directional guard band) as shown in Fig. 3(b) is not disposed. However, when there is no visual influence due to the modulation of the pixel values with respect to the time direction, such a time-directional guard band can be disposed.

[0050]

When the visual influence due to the embedding of the electronic

watermark is taken into consideration, it is desirable that variations in the brightness values of the adaptive pixels fall within a range of ± 1 . However, for adaptive pixels which have a sufficient brightness value and which prevent visual recognition of influence due to the brightness modulation (e.g., adaptive pixels having a brightness value of 190 or more), the variations in the brightness value associated with the electronic watermark embedding are doubled (± 2) so that the embedding strength of the electronic watermark can be increased.

[0051]

When the input electronic image does not have a sufficient number of pixels having a brightness value of 129 or more, and a sufficient amount of embedding for detection of the electronic watermark is not provided, the adaptive extraction unit 3 can be so constructed as to extract pixels having a brightness value larger than the mean value of the brightness values of pixels having a brightness value of 128 or less.

[0052]

The embedding processing unit 4 performs the embedding processing so that there cause slightly-varying variations in the brightness values of adjacent pixels in each guard band between two adjacent regions, which is set up by the image dividing unit 2 as mentioned above. Furthermore, when a time-directional guard band is set up, the embedding processing unit performs the embedding processing so that there cause a slowly-varying variation in the brightness value of each pixel in the time-directional guard band with respect to the time direction.

[0053]

A scene change in a video image is a significant event which causes a correlation between frame images or field images to vary notably with respect to the time direction, and which can serve as a synchronization reference of the embedding processing. Therefore, the embedding processing unit 4 in accordance with this embodiment can perform the electronic watermark embedding processing in synchronization with a scene change of the target electronic image.

[0054]

In this case, the embedding processing unit 4 detects, as a scene change, any change with respect to the time direction of the correlation between frame images in the target image into which the electronic watermark is to be embedded which exceeds a predetermined threshold, for example. The embedding processing unit 4 performs the process

of producing brightness variations with respect to the above-mentioned time direction on frames starting from the frame in which the scene change has been detected.

[0055]

As a result, even if the process of producing brightness variations with respect to the time direction in the electronic watermark embedding processing is shifted in time from the embedding intervals dependent upon the electronic watermark information 7, the synchronization of the brightness variations process with the above-mentioned intervals can be recovered on the basis of any scene change in the target image. Furthermore, when detecting the electronic watermark in accordance with the present invention, the phase in the embedding pattern of the electronic watermark can be restored exactly.

[0056]

When completing the brightness variation producing process dependent upon the electronic watermark information 7 furnished from the watermark information generating unit 5, as mentioned above, the embedding processing unit 4 outputs the thus-acquired image as an electronic-watermark-embedded image 6c.

[0057]

As mentioned above, in accordance with this embodiment 1, the electronic watermark embedding apparatus extracts, as adaptive pixels, every pixel whose image quality is not degraded even if its pixel value (e.g., brightness value) is made to vary by a predetermined amplitude (i.e., a certain variation) from a target image, and sets up guard bands which make the variations in the pixel values of the adaptive pixels slightly vary in space and slowly vary in a time direction. Therefore, while the resistance of the electronic watermark to recapturing of the target image to which the electronic watermark is embedded is maintained, visual disturbance due to the embedding of the electronic watermark can be remarkably reduced.

[0058]

In above-mentioned embodiment 1, an example of performing the process of producing a variation in the brightness value of each adaptive pixel both in space and in the time direction to embed an electronic watermark into a target image is shown. As an alternative, another pixel value which can be detected from any recaptured image can be used, instead of the brightness value.

[0059]

Embodiment 2.

In above-mentioned embodiment 1, there is provided an example of extracting adaptive pixels having a brightness value of 128 or more which corresponds to a brightness level at which the image quality of a target image does not degrade even if a process of producing brightness variations is performed on the adaptive pixels from the target image. However, there are cases where the extraction of only these adaptive pixels does not provide an adequate amount of embedding and therefore no electronic watermark can be detected.

[0060]

It is expected that there are many cases where in the target image into which the electronic watermark is to be embedded, pixels each having a large pixel value variation between frame images (or field images) form a frame image having abrupt movements of objects, and therefore pixel value variations have little visual influence upon such pixels.

[0061]

An electronic watermark embedding apparatus in accordance with embodiment 2 detects pixels each having a large pixel value variation between frame images (or field images) from frame difference values (or field difference values), and selects them as adaptive pixels to which an electronic watermark is to be embedded.

[0062]

The electronic watermark embedding device in accordance with embodiment 2 fundamentally has the same structure as that according to above-mentioned embodiment 1, but differs from that according to above-mentioned embodiment 1 in that an adaptive extraction unit 3 and an embedding processing unit 4 thereof perform the above-mentioned adaptation processing on a target image using frame difference values.

[0063]

Next, the adaptation processing using frame difference values will be explained in detail.

Fig. 7 is a diagram showing a method of calculating frame difference values which the electronic watermark embedding apparatus in accordance with embodiment 2 of the present invention uses. In the figure, frames 1 and 2 denote frame images of an electronic image 6b which are inputted in time sequence. When the pixels which constitute the frame 1 have values (e.g., brightness values) of x1, \times 2, ..., and \times 2, respectively, and the pixels which constitute the frame 2 have values of y1, y2, ..., and yn, respectively, each pixel's

frame difference value $\Delta F(n)$ can be calculated, as an absolute value, using the following equation (1):

$$\Delta F(n) = |xn - yn| \tag{1}$$

$$[0064]$$

Fig. 8 is a diagram showing the adaptation processing using frame difference values which is done for each embedded bit set in accordance with embodiment 2, and it is assumed that embedding intervals corresponding to each embedded bit set (in the shown example, each of "00" and "01") are the same as those shown in Fig. 5. The adaptive extraction unit 3 extracts, as adaptive pixels B, pixels having a brightness values of 180 or more, and also extracts, as adaptive pixels A, pixels having a brightness value of less than 128, as well as pixels having a brightness values of 128 or more, unlike that of above-mentioned embodiment 1.

100651

Pixels Next50% having a brightness value of less than 128 are pixels which are the higher-ranked half of all pixels having a brightness value of less than 128. Remainder having a brightness value of less than 128 are pixels having a brightness value lower than those of the pixels Next50% having a brightness value of less than 128.

[0066]

The adaptive extraction unit 3 performs the same processing as that of above-mentioned embodiment 1 so as to extract adaptive pixels A and B respectively having brightness levels shown in Fig. 8 for each of the plurality of divided regions of the electronic image 6b. The adaptive extraction unit 3 further calculates a frame difference value between frames of the electronic image 6b which are inputted in time sequence for every pixel using the above-mentioned equation (1), and outputs the calculated result which is obtained for every pixel to the embedding processing unit 4, as well as information for specifying the adaptive pixels (e.g., the position coordinates of the adaptive pixels in the target image).

[0067]

The embedding processing unit 4 determines a variation which is to be applied to the brightness value of each adaptive pixel on the basis of the frame difference value and brightness level of each adaptive pixel, and performs embedding processing on each adaptive pixel. Referring now to the example of Fig. 8, the embedding processing unit 4 recognizes every pixel whose frame difference value calculated by the adaptive extraction unit 3 is two or less to be a

pixel having a small pixel variation between frames (i.e., a pixel having a small amount of movement). Among such adaptive pixels having a frame difference value of two or less, only pixels having a brightness value of 128 or more at which variations in the brightness cannot be recognized visually even if the process of producing brightness variations is performed thereon are varied in their brightness values.

[0068]

The embedding processing unit 4 also recognizes every pixel whose frame difference value calculated by the adaptive extraction unit is equal to or larger than 3 and is equal to or smaller than 7 to be a pixel having a middle pixel variation between frames, and performs the brightness variation producing process on adaptive pixels which are the pixels Next50% having a brightness value of less than 128, as well as on adaptive pixels having a brightness value of 128 or more.

[0069]

Furthermore, the embedding processing unit 4 recognizes every pixel whose frame difference value calculated by the adaptive extraction unit is equal to or larger than 8 to be a pixel having a large pixel variation between frames (i.e., a pixel having a large amount of movement). The embedding processing unit 4 then determines that such adaptive pixels having a frame difference value of 8 or more are pixels in which variations in the brightness cannot be recognized visually even if the process of producing brightness variations is performed thereon, and performs the brightness variation producing process on even adaptive pixels having a brightness value of less than 128.

[0070]

Proper values of the above-mentioned thresholds used for classifying frame difference values can be set to the embedding processing unit 4 according to the image quality of the electronic-watermark-embedded image 6c.

[0071]

As mentioned above, the electronic watermark embedding apparatus in accordance with this embodiment 2 carries out embedding of an electronic watermark into a target image according to frame difference values. Therefore, the electronic watermark embedding apparatus in accordance with this embodiment can extract, as adaptive pixels, pixels each having a large pixel value variation between frames and having a property of being difficult to visually recognize variations in the pixel value thereof, and can increase the amount of embedding

of the electronic watermark. Thereby, the resistance of the electronic watermark in accordance with the present invention to recapturing of the target image can be improved.

100721

In above-mentioned embodiment 2, field difference values can be used instead of frame difference values. This variant can offer the same advantage with the same structure fundamentally.

[0073]

Embodiment 3.

An electronic watermark embedding apparatus in accordance with this embodiment 3 selects, as adaptive pixels for embedding of an electronic watermark, pixels at an edge portion of a target image into which the electronic watermark is to be embedded in order to increase the amount of embedding of the electronic watermark.

[0074]

The electronic watermark embedding device in accordance with embodiment 3 fundamentally has the same structure as that according to above-mentioned embodiment 1, but differs from that according to above-mentioned embodiment 1 in that an adaptive extraction unit 3 and an embedding processing unit 4 thereof perform edge adaptation processing on the target image.

[0075]

Next, the selection of adaptive pixels in the edge adaptation processing will be explained.

First, the adaptive extraction unit 3 performs perpendicular edge filter processing, isolated-point removing processing, and three-point NAM processing on an electronic image 6b into which an electronic watermark is embedded through the processing shown in above-mentioned embodiment 1 or 2 so as to acquire an image in which an edge portion is emphasized.

Fig. 9 is a diagram explaining the edge adaptation processing of the electronic watermark embedding apparatus in accordance with embodiment 3, Fig. 9(a) shows the perpendicular edge filter processing, Fig. 9(b) shows the isolated-point removing processing, and Fig. 9(c) shows the three-point NAM processing. Each of the perpendicular edge filter processing, isolated-point removing processing, and three-point NAM processing will be explained with reference to these figures. In Fig. 9, a case where the image (i.e., the electronic image 6b) on which each processing is to be performed has an image size of 720x486 pixels is taken as an example.

[0076]

In the perpendicular edge filter processing, a perpendicular edge is emphasized with noted pixels in the target image on which the processing is to be performed, and pixels adjacent to the noted pixels. The adaptive extraction unit calculates a pixel value Ya(x, y) in which the perpendicular edge with the noted pixels (each having coordinates (x, y)) is emphasized using the following equation (2):

```
Ya(x, y) = |-Y(xp, y)/2 + Y(x, y) - Y(xn, y)/2| (2)

In the case of 0 \le x < 719 and 0 \le y < 485,

xp = x-1, xn = x + 1

In the case of x = 0

xp = x + 1, xn = x + 1

In the case of x = 719

xp = x - 1, xn = x - 1

[0077]
```

The adaptive extraction unit 3 performs the isolated-point removing processing on the target image on which it has already performed the above-mentioned processing to emphasize the perpendicular edge with the noted pixels so that any sudden pixel value variation cannot be recognized as an edge. In the shown example, the adaptive extraction unit acquires the pixel values of 8 pixels in the vicinity of each noted pixel (having a pixel value Ya(x, y)), and removes, as an isolated point (having a pixel value Yb(x, y)), a pixel which provides a minimum of the third largest pixel value maxYa of the pixel values of the eight adjacent pixels, and the pixel value Ya(x, y) of each noted pixel according to the following equation (3):

[0078]

Yb(x, y) = min(Ya(x, y), maxYa) xp = x - 1, xn = x + 1, yp = y - 1, yn = y + 1In the case of x = 0 xp = x + 1, xn = x + 1In the case of x = 719 xp = x - 1, xn = x - 1In the case of y = 0 yp = y + 1, yn = y + 1In the case of y = 485 yp = y - 1, yn = y - 1

where maxYa shows the third largest pixel value of the pixel values of the adjacent pixels (i.e., the eight adjacent pixels) which do not include each noted pixel itself, and is expressed by the following

equation (4):

 $\max Ya = Mth \ (Ya(xp, yp), Ya(x, yp), Ya(xn, yp), Ya(xp, y), Ya(xn, yp), Ya(xp, yn), Ya(xn, yn))$ (4) The Mth function is the function which returns the third largest value of all input values.

[0079]

Then, the adaptive extraction unit 3 performs the three-point NAM processing on the image in which the perpendicular edge is emphasized and on which the isolated-point removing processing is performed. To be more specific, the adaptive extraction unit acquires a degree of edge Yc(x, y) which becomes a large value when the noted pixels are located at the edge portion of the image from each noted pixel (having coordinates (x, y)) associated with the edge portion and two pixels adjacent to each noted pixel using the following equation (5). This three-point NAM processing is also edge enhancement processing, and, when assuming Yc(x, y) as an image, while it is an edge-enhanced image, that Yc(x, y) is large becomes an index indicating that each noted pixel located at the coordinates (x, y) has a strong property of being an edge portion.

```
Yc(x, y) = max (Yb(xp, y), Yb(x, y), Yb(xn, y)) (5)

xp = x - 1, xn = x + 1

In the case of x = 0

xp = x + 1

In the case of x = 719

xp = x - 1

[0080]
```

The adaptive extraction unit 3 extracts pixels having a predetermined degree or more of edge (Yc) (e.g., Yc \geq 10) from among pixels which constitute the edge in the image on which the edge adaptation processing is performed as mentioned above, and acquires information for specifying the extracted pixels (e.g., the position coordinates of these pixels in the image).

[0081]

The adaptive extraction unit 3 then extracts original images A and B on which the edge adaptation processing has not been performed yet from the electronic image 6b (i.e., extracts adaptive pixels which satisfy adaptation requirements about the predetermined degree of edge from the electronic image 6b), and outputs information for specifying the pixels (e.g., the position coordinates of these pixels in the image) to the embedding processing unit 4.

[0082]

The embedding processing unit 4 performs the brightness variation producing process on the adaptive pixels of the electronic image 6b which are the original images according to the information for specifying both pixels having a degree of edge equal to or larger than the predetermined degree of edge at the edge portion and adaptive pixels from the adaptive extraction unit 3 at the embedding intervals shown in Fig. 5.

[0083]

Fig. 10 is a diagram showing the edge adaptation processing which is done for each embedded bit set. The above-mentioned processing will be explained by referring to the shown example. The adaptive extraction unit 3 extracts pixels having a degree of edge of 10 or more from all the pixels which are included in the image on which the edge adaptation processing has been performed and which constitute an edge, and acquires information for specifying the extracted pixels (e.g., the position coordinates of these pixels). The adaptive extraction unit further extracts, as adaptive pixels, both pixels having a brightness value of 128 or more and pixels having a brightness value of 180 or more from the electronic image 6b which is the original image, and acquires information for specifying the extracted pixels (e.g., the position coordinates of these pixels). These pieces of information are outputted to the embedding processing unit 4.

[0084]

The embedding processing unit 4 then increases the amount of variations in the adaptation processing for either adaptation A or adaptation B, as shown in Fig. 10. In other words, for the adaptation A, the embedding processing unit increments the variation to be applied to the brightness value of each adaptive pixel having a degree of edge of 10 or more at the edge portion selected from the image on which the edge adaptation processing has been performed and having a brightness value of 128 or more by 1. In addition to the processing for the adaptation A, the embedding processing unit increments the variation to be applied to the brightness value of each adaptive pixel having a brightness value of 180 or more by 1 for the adaptation B. While variations can be applied to the brightness of the target image through the processing for the adaptation A, the addition of the processing for the adaptation B makes it possible to produce more solid variations in the brightness of the target image without increase in the visual disturbance, and to provide stable results of detection

of the electronic watermark embedded into the target image. [0085]

As mentioned above, the electronic watermark embedding apparatus in accordance with this embodiment 3 further extracts, as adaptive pixels, pixels located at an edge portion and having a degree of edge equal to or greater than a predetermined degree of edge from the electronic image 6c into which an electronic watermark is embedded through the processing shown in embodiment 1 or 2, and further embeds an electronic watermark into the electronic image. Therefore, the electronic watermark embedding apparatus in accordance with this embodiment can increase the amount of watermark embedding, and can improve the resistance of the electronic watermark to recapturing of the target image.

[0086]

In above-mentioned embodiments 1 to 3, different types of adaptation processing are explained. As an alternative, a combination of two or more of the different types of adaptation processing can be carried out.

100871

Embodiment 4.

Fig. 11 is a block diagram showing the structure of an electronic watermark detecting apparatus in accordance with embodiment 4 of the present invention. The electronic watermark detecting apparatus 8 is provided with a Gap detecting unit 9, a correlation detecting unit 10, and an embedded bit judging unit 11. The electronic watermark detecting apparatus 8 can be implemented via execution of an electronic watermark detecting program in accordance with the present invention by using, for example, a general-purpose computer.

[8800]

In other words, the electronic watermark detecting apparatus 8 can carry out its characteristic data processing by making the computer execute the electronic watermark detecting program and function as the above-mentioned components 9 to 11. In the following explanation, the detailed explanation of the structure and fundamental functions of the computer which implements the electronic watermark detecting apparatus 8 will be omitted hereafter for the same reason explained in above-mentioned embodiment 1.

[0089]

In an electronic image 6c into which an electronic watermark is embedded by the electronic watermark embedding apparatus 1 explained

in any of above-mentioned embodiments 1 to 3, frame difference values (or field difference values) vary rapidly when the phase of variations with respect to a time direction in the electronic watermark pattern is inverted.

[0090]

Therefore, if recognizing the electronic watermark embedded into the electronic image 6c, by detecting a frame difference (or a field difference) from the electronic image 6c periodically at the time when the phase of variations with respect to the time direction in the electronic watermark pattern is inverted, the electronic watermark detecting apparatus can restore the electronic watermark pattern in accordance with the present invention on the basis of the frame difference value (or field difference value).

[0091]

The Gap detecting unit 9 detects variations (referred to as a Gap hereafter) with respect to the time direction in the pixel values of pixels in the electronic watermark pattern from the electronic image 6c for each of the plurality of divided regions on the basis of the detection of the above-mentioned periodic frame difference. The correlation detecting unit 10 also detects a correlation between pixel value variations with respect to the time direction in the electronic watermark pattern which is embedded into the electronic image by the electronic watermark embedding apparatus 1 explained in any of above-mentioned embodiments 1 to 3 and the pixel value variations with respect to the time direction of the electronic image 6c for each of the plurality of divided regions.

[0092]

The embedded bit judging unit 11 determines the bit value embedded into the electronic image 6c on the basis of the Gap value detected by the Gap detecting unit 9, and also determines the bit value embedded into the electronic image 6c on the basis of the correlation value detected by the correlation detecting unit 10, and outputs, as the embedded bit set, the bit value which it has determined finally by judging both the determination results comprehensively.

[0093]

Next, the operation will be explained.

In the following explanation, it is assumed that the electronic watermark detecting apparatus detects the above-mentioned embedded bit set which constitutes the electronic watermark from the electronic image 6c in which the electronic watermark is embedded into an input

electronic image 6a by the electronic watermark embedding apparatus 1 mentioned in any of above-mentioned embodiments.

[0094]

As the electronic image 6c, there is provided an electronic image including an electronic watermark pattern in which the brightness values of adaptive pixels included in two diagonal ones (e.g., regions A and D or regions B and C in Fig. 2) of four regions into which each frame image of the input electronic image 6a is divided are made to vary out of phase with the variations applied to those of adaptive pixels included in the other two diagonal regions according to electronic watermark information 7, the electronic watermark pattern also varying in a time direction (i.e., a direction of frames).

[0095]

Furthermore, assume that a bit value 00 is embedded into each of the diagonal regions A and D at intervals shown in Fig. 5. That is, the brightness values of the adaptive pixels in the region A are varied at the intervals corresponding to the embedded bit set 00 shown in Fig. 5, while the brightness values of the adaptive pixels in the region D are varied at the intervals corresponding to the embedded bit set 01 shown in Fig. 5.

[0096]

The electronic image 6c which is a moving image from which an electronic watermark is to be detected is played back by a display (or monitor), and an image obtained by recapturing this displayed electronic image using a video camera is furnished to the electronic watermark detecting apparatus 8. The electronic image 6c is furnished to both the Gap detecting unit 9 and the correlation detecting unit 10 disposed in the electronic watermark detecting apparatus 8.

[0097]

Gap detection intervals are set to the Gap detecting unit 9 on the basis of the electronic-watermark-embedding intervals for the electronic image 6c, and the Gap detecting unit 9 calculates a frame brightness difference (i.e., carries out a Gap detection) for each of the plurality of divided regions of the electronic image 6c at the Gap detection intervals.

[0098]

Fig. 12 is a diagram showing an example of the Gap detection intervals for the intervals for embedding of the electronic watermark (e.g., intervals of 30 frames), and shows, as an example, a case where the electronic watermark is embedded into the target image at the

embedding intervals of Fig. 5 shown in above-mentioned embodiment 1. In the example shown in the figure, Gaps are detected at a time a when an 8th frame is started after a 7th frame is completed, at a time b when a 16th frame is started after a 15th frame is completed, at a time c when a 23rd frame is started after a 22nd frame is completed, and at a time d when a 30th frame is started.

[0099]

Each of the times a and c corresponds to a point at which a phase change occurs for the embedding intervals associated with the embedded bit sets 10 and 11 shown in Fig. 5, and each of the times b and d corresponds to a point at which a phase change occurs for the embedding intervals associated with the embedded bit sets 00 and 01 shown in Fig. 5.

[0100]

When the electronic watermark is embedded into the target image in synchronization with a scene change of the electronic image 6c at which the image correlation in the direction of frames changes remarkably, the Gap detecting unit 9 grasps a start point of the embedding intervals with the scene change, and performs Gap detection processing, as in the case of above-mentioned embodiment 1.

[0101]

In this case, the Gap detecting unit 9 detects, as a scene change, a point where the amount of variations with time in the image correlation in the direction of frames of the target moving image from which an electronic watermark is to be detected exceeds a predetermined threshold, for example. The Gap detecting unit 9 then performs the detection of Gaps on subsequent frames that follow the frame in which the scene change has been detected thereby.

[0102]

Within several seconds (e.g., 2 to 3 seconds) after a scene change has occurred, the image quality of recaptured data which is to be taken in as the electronic image 6c can be varied greatly. This is because the brightness values of about 30 subsequent frames following a frame in which a scene change has occurred vary greatly due to, for example, the auto iris functions of the video camera.

[0103]

Therefore, when performing the detection of Gaps in synchronization with a scene change which has occurred in the electronic image 6c, the Gap detecting unit 9 does not use 30 subsequent frames following the frame in which the scene change has occurred,

but uses recaptured data about frames following the 30 frames, in which their brightness values are stable, for example.

[0104]

As a result, even if the Gap detection process in the electronic watermark detection processing is carried out at a timing which is shifted from the initially-set Gap detection intervals, the synchronization of the Gap detection process with the above-mentioned initially-set Gap detection intervals can be recovered on the basis of detection of any scene change which has occurred in the target image.

[0105]

Next, the details of the Gap detection processing will be explained.

The Gap detecting unit 9 calculates, as a Gap value, the difference between the average of the brightness values of all the pixels in a frame immediately before each Gap detection time and that of the brightness values of all the pixels in a frame immediately after each Gap detection time (the difference between the average of the brightness values of all the pixels in a frame immediately before each change in the embedding phase of the electronic watermark pattern and that of the brightness values of all the pixels in a frame immediately after each change in the embedding phase of the electronic watermark pattern) for each of the plurality of divided regions of the inputted electronic image 6c at the time of watermark embedding according to the following equation (6):

Since the first 30 frames which are recaptured at the start of the recapturing are disregarded, i is given by 4, 5, 6, ..., and Y(44), Y(45), Y(46), Y(47), Y(59), Y(60), Y(61), Y(62), Y(74), Y(75), Y(76), Y(77), and... appear as Y(n).

[0106]

In this way, the Gap detecting unit 9 calculates a Gap value at each Gap detection time at the above-mentioned embedding intervals corresponding to the embedded bit set which constitutes the electronic watermark for each of the plurality of divided regions of the electronic image 6c at the time of watermark embedding. When completing the calculation of these Gap values, the Gap detecting unit 9 calculates the average of the Gap values at each of the Gap detection times a

to d acquired at the predetermined intervals for each of the plurality of divided regions A to D. For example, the Gap detecting unit acquires the average of the Gap values acquired at the Gap detection times a in the region A using the following equation (7):

[Equation 1]

$$AGap_{a} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} a(i)$$
 (7)

[0107]

In this equation, n is a natural number, and a(1), a(2), a(3), ..., a(n) show the Gap values respectively calculated at the Gap detection times a within the embedding time intervals. The Gap detecting unit also calculates the average of the Gap values at each of the Gap detection times a to d acquired at the predetermined intervals for each of the plurality of divided regions B to D using a similar equation. In the above equation, A in AGapa shows the region A of the four divided regions of the electronic image 6c at the time of the watermark embedding, and the subscript a in AGapa shows the Gap detection time a.

[0108]

When calculating the average of the Gap values at each of the Gap detection times acquired at the predetermined intervals for each of the four divided regions of the electronic image 6c at the time of the watermark embedding, the Gap detecting unit 9 calculates Gap values (AADGapac, AADGapbd, ABcGapac, and ABcGapbd) for the two sets of the two diagonal regions (the regions A and D, and the regions B and C) according to the following equation (8) since the variation produced in the brightness value of each adaptive pixel in one of the two diagonal regions is out of phase with the variation produced in the brightness value of each adaptive pixel in the other one of the two diagonal regions, where AAD shows the regions A and D and ABc shows the regions B and C.

When the variation applied to the brightness value of each adaptive pixel in one of the two diagonal regions is made to be in phase with

the variation applied to the brightness value of each adaptive pixel in the other one of the two diagonal regions, the user can recognize visually that the whole of the electronic image becomes bright or dark periodically according to the variations in the brightness of the entire screen. In contrast, when the variation applied to the brightness value of each adaptive pixel in one of the two diagonal regions is made to be out of phase with the variation applied to the brightness value of each adaptive pixel in the other one of the two diagonal regions, as mentioned above, the variations in the brightness of the entire screen can be cancelled.

[0110]

Gap $_{ac}$ and Gap $_{bd}$ which are thus acquired are outputted from the Gap detecting unit 9 to the embedded bit judgment unit 11. The embedded bit judgment unit 11 carries out determination of the embedded bit set which is based on the Gap detection results using the Gap values (Gap $_{ac}$ and Gap $_{bd}$) furnished from the Gap detecting unit 9.

[0111]

Fig. 13 is a diagram showing a relationship between the Gap values and the embedded bit set. The embedded bit judgment unit 11 determines the embedded bit set according to the relationship shown in this figure. Parameters x and z shown in the figure are acquired by the embedded bit judgment unit 11 using the Gap values (Gap_{ac} and Gap_{bd}) calculated by the Gap detecting unit 9.

[0112]

In the figure, x is equal to max (|Gapac|, |Gapbol|) which shows the absolute value of a larger one of Gapac and Gapbol which can be a candidate for a significant value. On the other hand, z shows the other one of Gapac and Gapbol which has a value close to 0, i.e., which cannot be a candidate for the significant value.

[0113]

The embedded bit judgment unit 11 determines the embedded bit set by determining which relationship shown by the parameters x and z of Fig. 13 Gap_{ac} and Gap_{bd} have.

[0114]

Next, the embedded bit set determination using correlation detection will be explained.

Fig. 14 is a diagram showing the embedding phase of the electronic watermark, and shows the phases of variations applied to the brightness values of adaptive pixels in the case of the embedding intervals shown in Fig. 5. Functions $f^I(i)$ and $f^Q(i)$ which specify the above-mentioned

embedding phases are set to the correlation detecting unit 10. Using these functions, variations in the time direction (i.e., the direction of frames) in the electronic watermark pattern of the target image from which the electronic watermark is to be detected are grasped.

The function $f^I(i)$ specifies the phase for the embedding intervals corresponding to each of the embedded bit sets 00 and 01 shown in Fig. 5, and is referred to as I-phase from here on, while the function $f^Q(i)$ specifies the phase for the embedding intervals corresponding to each of the embedded bit sets 10 and 11 shown in Fig. 5, and is referred to as Q-phase from here on.

[0116] -

[0115]

The correlation detecting unit 10 acquires reference image data α , which is used to calculate the correlation using the following equation (9), from the electronic image 6c furnished thereto. This reference image data α shows the average of the brightness values of 60 fields inputted immediately before noted fields (i.e., fields at which the correlation is detected) starting from a field at which the detection of the correlation of the electronic image 6c is started and ending at a last field (i.e., an N-th field) of the image from which the electronic watermark is to be detected. Yj shows the average of the brightness values of all the pixels of each field of the electronic image 6c.

[Equation 2]

$$\alpha = \frac{1}{60} \sum_{j=i-60}^{i} Y_{j}$$
 $i = 61,62,63,\cdots,N$ (Nフィールド構成の場合)

[0117]

Thus, when acquiring the reference image, the correlation detecting unit in accordance with the present invention uses the average of the brightness values of all the pixels of frames (or fields) in the vicinity of the frames (or fields) at which the correlation is detected. The reason why the average of the brightness values of all the pixels of frames in the vicinity of the noted frames at which the correlation is detected is used to acquire the reference image is that in general, frames in the vicinity of the noted frames are similar to one another, and therefore the calculation of the average of the brightness values of the frame images can reduce the influence caused by the difference among the contents of the frame images and

the reference image which approximates the noted frames more accurately can be acquired.

[0118]

Instead of the average of the brightness values of all the pixels of above-mentioned 60 fields inputted immediately before the frames at which the correlation is detected, the correlation detecting unit can adopt the following equation (10) or (11) to acquire the reference image data α . The following equation (10) is the one used for calculating the average of the brightness values of N fields when the electronic image 6c includes the N fields, and the following equation (11) is the one used for calculating the average of the brightness values of 28 fields inputted immediately before the noted fields and 30 fields inputted immediately after the noted fields.

[Equation 3]

$$\alpha = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N} Y_{j}$$
 (10) Nフィールド構成の場合

$$\alpha = \frac{1}{58} \sum_{j=i-28}^{i+30} Y_j$$
 $i = 29,30,31,\cdots, N-30$ (Nフィールド構成の場合)

[0119]

Then, the correlation detection unit 10 calculates the correlation value corresponding to the embedding phase for each of the plurality of divided regions of the electronic image 6c at the time of the watermark embedding using both the functions $f^I(i)$ and $f^Q(i)$ which specify the phases for the embedding intervals shown in Fig. 5, and the reference image data α , according to the following equations (12) and (13). In the following equations, i=a shows an initial value of a field number which enables the calculation of the reference image data α , and Yi shows the average of the brightness values of all the pixels of each field of the electronic image 6c.

[Equation 4]

$$I - phaseの相関$$

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=n}^{n} f'(i)(Y_i - \alpha)$$
 (12)

$$Q - phase の相関$$

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} f^{Q}(i)(Y_{i} - \alpha)$$
(13)

[0120]

When thus calculating the correlation values for the plurality of divided regions A, B, C, and D of the electronic image 6c at the time of the watermark embedding, the correlation detection unit 10 calculates the correlation values C(I, AAD), C(Q, AAD), C(I, ABC), and C(Q, ABC) about the two sets of the two diagonal regions (i.e., the regions A and D, and the regions B and C) according to the following equation (14), since a bit value 00 is embedded into the electronic image so that the variation applied to the brightness value of each adaptive pixel in one of the two diagonal regions is out of phase with the variation applied to the brightness value of each adaptive pixel in the other one of the two diagonal regions, where AAD shows the regions A and D, and ABC shows the regions B and C.

$$C(I, A_{AD}) = \{C(I, A) - C(I, D)\}/2$$

$$C(Q, A_{AD}) = \{C(Q, A) - C(Q, D)\}/2$$

$$C(I, A_{BC}) = \{C(I, B) - C(I, C)\}/2$$

$$C(Q, A_{BC}) = \{C(Q, B) - C(Q, C)\}/2$$
[0121]

When the variation applied to the brightness values of each adaptive pixel in one of the two diagonal regions is made to be in phase with the variation applied to the brightness value of each adaptive pixel in the other one of the two diagonal regions, the user can recognize visually that the whole of the electronic image becomes bright or dark periodically according to the variations in the brightness of the entire screen. In contrast, when the variation applied to the brightness values of each adaptive pixel in one of the two diagonal regions is made to be out of phase with the variation applied to the brightness value of each adaptive pixel in the other one of the two diagonal regions, as mentioned above, the variations in the brightness of the entire screen can be cancelled.

[0122]

The thus-calculated correlation values C(I, AAD), C(Q, AAD), C(I, ABC), and C(Q, ABC) are outputted from the correlation detecting unit 10 to the embedded bit judgment unit 11. The embedded bit judgment unit 11 carries out determination of the embedded bit set which is based on the correlation detection results using the correlation values C(I, AAD), C(Q, AAD), C(I, ABC), and C(Q, ABC) from the correlation detecting unit.

[0123]

Fig. 15 is a diagram showing a relationship between the correlation values and the embedded bit set. According to the relationship shown in this figure, the embedded bit judgment unit 11 determines the embedded bit set. Parameters x and z, and C(I) and C(Q) shown in the figure are acquired by the embedded bit judgment unit 11 using the correlation values C(I, AAD), C(Q, AAD), C(I, ABC), and C(Q, ABC) calculated by the correlation detecting unit 10.

[0124]

C(I) is equal to C(I, AAD) + C(I, ABC), and C(Q) is equal to C(Q, AAD) + C(Q, ABC). Furthermore, x is equal to max(|C(I)|, |C(Q)|) which shows the absolute value of a larger one of C(I) and C(Q) which can be a candidate for a significant value. On the other hand, z shows the other one of C(I) and C(Q) which has a value close to 0, i.e., which cannot be a candidate for the significant value.

[0125]

The embedded bit judgment unit 11 determines the embedded bit set by determining which relationship shown by the parameters x and z of Fig. 15 C(I) and C(Q) have.

[0126]

The embedded bit judgment unit 11 further judges both the embedded bit value which it has determines through the Gap detection and the embedded bit value which it has determines through the correlation detection comprehensively so as to determine the embedded bit value finally and to output it.

[0127]

Fig. 16 is a diagram showing a relationship between the embedded bit values which are determined through the Gap detection and correlation detection, and the finally-determined embedded bit value. As shown in the figure, in accordance with the present invention, the embedded bit set is determined complementarily through the Gap detection and correlation detection. For example, even if the result

of one of the Gap detection and correlation detection indicates that the embedded bit set has not yet been detected, the embedded bit judgment unit can determine that the determination result indicating that the embedded bit set has not yet been detected has an error as long as the result of the other one of the Gap detection and correlation detection indicates the determination of a significant embedded bit value.

[0128]

So, in accordance with the present invention, the result of one of the Gap detection and correlation detection indicating the determination of a significant embedded bit value in such a way as to complement the result of the other determination processing is adopted as a final determination result. By doing in this way, the reliability of the detection result of the electronic watermark, and the accuracy of the detection of the electronic watermark can be improved.

[0129]

In order to control variations in the detection values obtained through the above-mentioned Gap detection and correlation detection, the Gap detecting unit 9 and correlation detecting unit 10 can perform clip processing on the detection results. For example, as shown in Fig. 17, when the detected Gap value associated with brightness variations becomes smaller than -1, the Gap detecting unit 9 adopts a preset clip value of -1 as the detected Gap value, and when the detected correlation value associated with brightness variations becomes smaller than -1, the correlation detecting unit 10 adopts a preset clip value of -1 as the detected correlation value. In contrast, when the detected Gap value associated with brightness variations becomes larger than +1, the Gap detecting unit 9 adopts a preset clip value of +1 as the detected Gap value, and when the detected correlation value associated with brightness variations becomes larger than +1, the correlation detecting unit 10 adopts a preset clip value of +1 as the detected correlation value.

[0130]

By thus providing upper and lower limits for each of the detected Gap and correlation values so that each of them falls within a predetermined range, any fluctuations in each of the detected Gap and correlation values which occur depending upon the contents of the image which is the target of the Gap detection and correlation detection can be reduced, and the process of determining the embedded bit set

can be carried out with stability.

(0131)

Fig. 18 is a diagram showing an example of application of the electronic watermark detecting apparatus in accordance with this embodiment 4. In the example shown, the electronic watermark detecting apparatus 8 is constructed as a pen type detector 12. A pen point of the pen type detector 12 is equipped with a video camera for capturing an image displayed on a monitor display 14, such as a CRT or LCD, and detects an electronic watermark by carrying out the above-mentioned processing. The pen type detector displays an embedded bit set which is a result of detection on a display window 13 so that the user can recognize that the electronic watermark in accordance with the present invention is embedded into the target image from which the electronic watermark is to be detected.

[0132]

In this application, an electronic watermark in accordance with the present invention is embedded into a partial area of a target image into which the electronic watermark is to be embedded. When the user presses the pen point of the pen type detector against the above-mentioned electronic-watermark-embedded area displayed on the monitor display, the pen type detector captures an image of the detection target area to carry out the process of detecting the electronic watermark. Since the pen type detector is so constructed as mentioned above, it can carry out detection of the electronic watermark easily while capturing an image played back on the monitor display 14.

[0133]

As mentioned above, the electronic watermark detecting apparatus in accordance with this embodiment 4 determines the embedded bit set complementarily through the Gap detection and correlation detection. Therefore, the present embodiment offers an advantage of being able to improve the reliability of the detection result of the electronic watermark and the accuracy of the detection of the electronic watermark.

[0134]

In above-mentioned embodiment 4, the example of judging both the embedded bit value which the electronic watermark detecting apparatus has determined through the Gap detection and the embedded bit value which the electronic watermark detecting apparatus has determined through the correlation detection complementarily so as to determine

the embedded bit value finally is shown. However, the present invention is not limited to this structure.

[0135]

For example, without providing the correlation detecting unit 10, the electronic watermark detecting apparatus can be so constructed that the embedded bit judging unit 11 determines the embedded bit set only from the Gap detection result obtained by the Gap detecting unit 9. In order to maintain detection accuracy with this structure, it is necessary to strictly achieve synchronization between the embedding intervals at which the electronic watermark is embedded into the image from which the electronic watermark is to be detected and the Gap detection intervals. However, since the time required for the correlation detection is omitted, the electronic watermark can be detected in real time while the recaptured image is played back.

[0136]

Without providing the Gap detecting unit 9, the electronic watermark detecting apparatus can be so constructed that the embedded bit judging unit 11 determines the embedded bit set only from the correlation detection result obtained by the correlation detecting unit 10. In this structure, the correlation detecting unit 10 uses the average of the brightness values of all the pixels of frames (or fields) in the vicinity of the frame (or field) in which the correlation is detected in order to acquire the reference image data α which it uses for calculation of the correlation value, as mentioned above.

[0137]

Therefore, this variant can reduce the influence due to the difference in the image contents of the target image from which the electronic watermark is to be detected, and can calculate the correlation value using the reference image which approximates the noted frame more precisely, thereby improving the accuracy of the detection of the electronic watermark.

Industrial Applicability

[BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS]

[0138]

- [Fig. 1] This is a block diagram showing the structure of an electronic watermark embedding apparatus in accordance with embodiment 1 of the present invention.
- [Fig. 2] This is a diagram showing image regions into which an input electronic image is divided spatially.
 - [Fig. 3] This is a diagram showing an example of an electronic

watermark pattern in accordance with embodiment 1 and a temporal variation in the electronic watermark pattern.

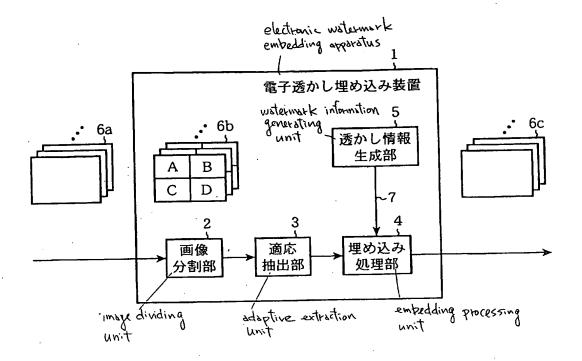
- [Fig. 4] This is a diagram showing an example of the electronic watermark pattern including a spatial guard band and a guard band in a time direction.
- [Fig. 5] This is a diagram showing adaptation processing for each embedded bit set, and a temporal variation in the adaptation processing.
- [Fig. 6] This is a diagram showing the adaptation processing at a brightness level associated with each embedded bit set.
- [Fig. 7] This is a diagram explaining a method of calculating a frame difference which an electronic watermark embedding apparatus in accordance with embodiment 2 uses.
- [Fig. 8] This is a diagram showing adaptation processing using a frame difference obtained for each embedded bit set.
- [Fig. 9] This is a diagram explaining edge adaptation processing carried out by an electronic watermark embedding apparatus in accordance with embodiment 3.
- [Fig. 10] This is a diagram showing the edge adaptation processing done for each embedded bit set.
- [Fig. 11] This is a block diagram showing the structure of an electronic watermark detecting apparatus in accordance with embodiment 4 of the present invention.
- [Fig. 12] This is a diagram showing Gap detection points during each electronic watermark embedding interval.
- [Fig. 13] This is a diagram showing a relationship between Gap values and embedded bit sets.
- [Fig. 14] This is a diagram showing the phases of embedding of an electronic watermark.
- [Fig. 15] This is a diagram showing a relationship between correlation values and embedded bit sets.
- [Fig. 16] This is a diagram showing a relationship between embedded bit values which are determined through Gap detection and correlation detection, and a finally-determined embedded bit value.
 - [Fig. 17] This is a diagram explaining clip processing. and
- [Fig. 18] This is a diagram showing an example of application of the electronic watermark detecting apparatus in accordance with embodiment 4.

[DESCRIPTION OF THE REFERENCE NUMERALS]

[0139]

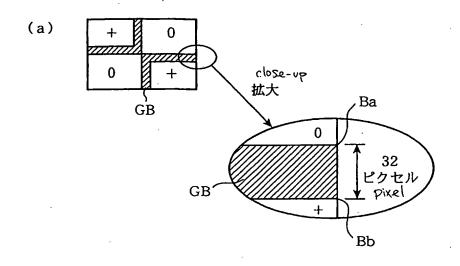
1 ... electronic watermark embedding apparatus; 2 ... image dividing unit; 3 ... adaptive extraction unit; 4 ... embedding processing unit; 5 ... watermark information generating unit; 6a ... input electronic image; 6b, 6c... electronic image; 7 ... embedded bit; 8 ... electronic watermark detecting apparatus; 9 ... Gap detecting unit; 10 ... correlation detecting unit; 11 ... embedded bit judging unit; 12 ... pen type detector; 13 ... display window; and 14 ... monitor display.

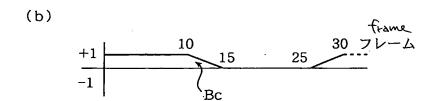
【書類名】図面 [Name of the bocument] Drawings 【図1】[Fig. 1]



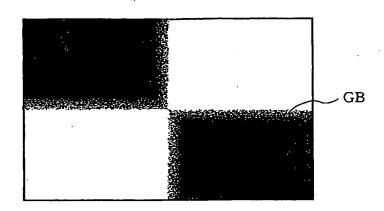
【図2】[Fig·2]

region A	region B
領域A	領域B
tegion c	ngim D
領域C	領域D

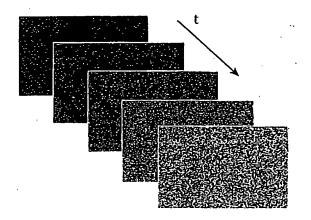




(a)



(b)



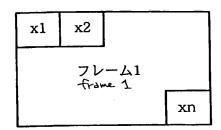
整理番号:548767JP01 【図5】[Fig.5] embedding bot set

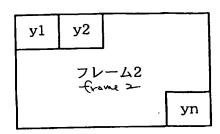
, 埋め込み ピット	埋め込み周期~ embedding intervals
00	+1 適応A adaptive pixel B 30 フレーム frame frame adaptive pixel A 16 適応B
01	adoptive pixel A 16
10	+1 適応A — adaptive pixel A — 適応A 30 フレーム 7 23 frame -1 適応B adaptive pixel B
11	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

brightness value of 128 or less brightness value of 180 or more 【図6】embedding [Fig.6] bit set of 129 or more idaptive pixel A

埋め込み	/ 適,	ĎΑ /	適応B
ピット	輝度値129以上	輝度値128以下	輝度値180以上
00	+1	Next 50% +1	+1
01	-1	Next 50% -1	-1
10	+1	Next 50% +1	+1
11	-1	Next 50% -1	-1

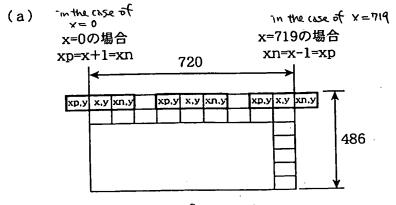
【図7】[Fig.7]

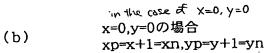


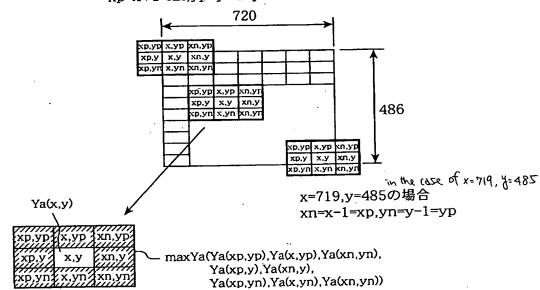


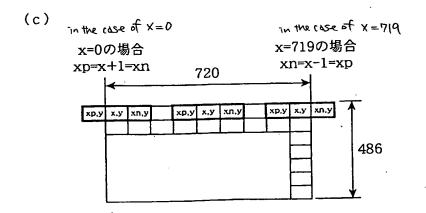
brightness value of lies than 128 [図8] [Fig. &] brightness value of less than 128 brightness value of 128 or more adaptive pixel A adoptive B residual entedded bit set 適応B Trame difference 適応A value brightness value of 輝度値 輝度値 輝度値 フレーム 輝度値 埋め込み 128未満 180 128未満 差分 128 190 or more . ピット 以上 残り 以上 Next 50% なしnone 71 なしnone ≦2 +1 ないnone 3≦ 及び ≦7 +1+1+1 00 +1 +1 +1+1 ≥8 なしnone なしnove -1 ≦2 -1 なしnone 3≦ 及び ≦7 -1 -1 -1 01 -1 -1 -1 -1 ≥8

[図9] [Fig. 9]





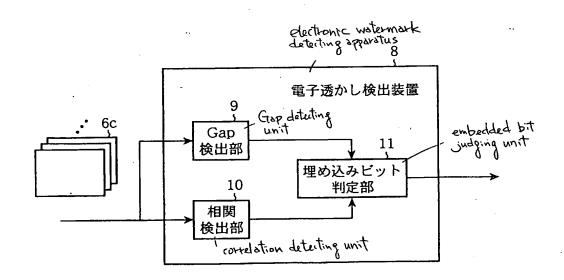




[図10] [Fig. 10]

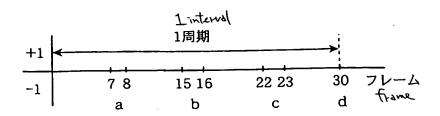
· ·		adaptiv	12 pixel A	adaptive pixel B		
•	degree of edge	brightness value (of less than 128 適	成A of 128 or more	/ 適応B		
1	エッジ度(Yc)	輝度128未満	輝度128以上	輝度180以上	brightness value of 180 or more	
less than	10未満	なし none	なしwѡ	なしnone		
	10以上	なしnone	1	1	<u>.</u>	
	10 of more			•		

[図11] [Fig. ||]



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【図12】[Fig. 12]



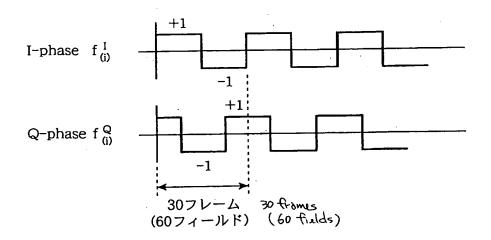
【図13】[Fig.13]

embedded bit set

	. .
undete	cted

埋め込みピット	Gap _{ac or}	Gap _{bd}
未検出	2 <0.1 また	t Z ×2≧ X
00	Z	X
01	Z	-X
10	X	Z
11	-X	Z

[図14] [Fig. 14]



embedded bit set

			
•	埋め込みピット	C(I) or	C(Q)
undetected -	未検出	2 <0.1 またに	t Z ×2≧ X
	00	X	Z
	01	-X	Z
	10	Z	X
	11	Z	-X

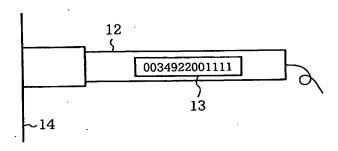
[図16] [Fig.16]

,		Gap detection						
,			un	actected	/ Gap検出	undete	ted	
			00	01	10	//11	未検出	
		00	00 /	未検出	未検出	未検出	00	
correlation detection -	相	01	未検出	01	未検出 [/]	未検出 -	01	- undetected
detection -	相関検出	10	未検出、	未検出	10	未検出	10	- Waster
	出	11	未検出	未検出	未検出	11	11/	
		未検出	00 \	/ 01	10	11	未検出	
,		undetected		detected	· · ·			••

【図17】[Fig. 17]

Grap and correlation in 1. every frame	clip value
プレーム毎のGap及び相関	クリップ値
<-1	-1
>+1	+1

<u>整理番号:548767JP01</u> 【図18】[Fig. 18]



[NAME OF THE DOCUMENT] ABSTRACT
[ABSTRACT]

[SUBJECT] To provide an electronic watermark embedding method of being able to embed an electronic watermark which is effective for recaptured images into a target image without degrading the image quality of the target image, and an electronic watermark detecting method thereof with a high degree of precision, as well as an apparatus and a program by which the methods are realized.

[SOLVING MEANS]

An electronic image into which an electronic watermark is to be embedded is divided into a plurality of image regions spatially, and pixels each having a property of being difficult to visually recognize a variation in a pixel value are extracted as adaptive pixels from each of the plurality of image regions. A variation between the pixel values of the adaptive pixels in one of the plurality of image regions and those of the adaptive pixels in an adjacent one of the plurality of image regions is produced, and the pixel values of the adaptive pixels of the plurality of image regions are varied in a time direction according to the value of an embedded bit set of the electronic watermark. An electronic—watermark-embedded image is then generated by making the variation in the pixel values of the adaptive pixels vary step by step at a boundary between the two of the plurality of image regions and/or in the time direction so that the variation makes a slow transition.

[SELECTED DRAWING] Fig. 1

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